

福本伸行

AKAGI ● Nobuyuki Fukumoto
Kindai Mahjong Comics

第 **6** 卷

Kindai
mahjong
comics



9784812450055

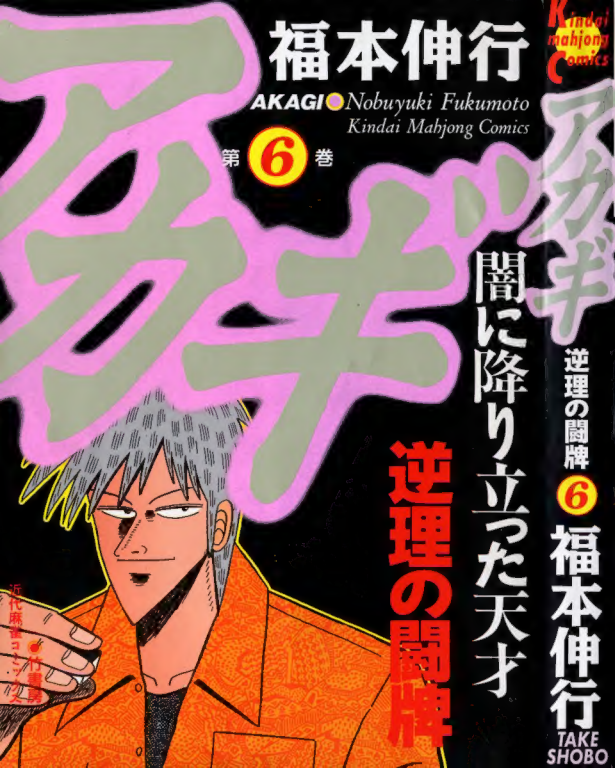
ISBN4-8124-5005-5

C9979 P560E



1919979005604

雑誌57593-22 定価560円(本体544円)



闇に降り立った天才

逆理の闘牌

逆理の闘牌

第 **6** 卷

福本伸行

TAKE
SHOBO

闇に降り立った天才

近代麻雀コミックス ● 竹書房

福本伸行

アガギ

第 **6** 卷

漆黒の暗闇から銀豹は
肺臓を衝く叫びを上げる。
髪は逆立ち、肌は粟立ち
全身が火花を噴かん
ばかりに結核立。

その燃え立つがたまりを
冷やかに見つめる目があつた。——彼の名はアウグ。
後に神域の男と呼ばれ、異社会に君臨した男。あのアウグだった。



●アウグ●楠本伸行●月刊別冊『異世界』第1巻第1号



アカギ

福本伸行

AKAGI ● Nobuyuki Fukumoto
Kindai Mahjong Comics

第 6 卷

逆理の闘牌

闇に降り立った天才

Kindai
mahjong
comics

アカギ

逆理の闘牌

⑥

福本伸行

TAKE
SHOBO

闇に降り立った天才
近代麻雀コミックス ● 竹書房
福本伸行

アカギ

第 6 卷

近代麻雀コミックス

第⑥卷

麻雀

福本伸行

● TAKE SHOBO ●

赤木しげる



ニセアカギ

現在は川田組の代打ち。並外れた記憶力と雀力を持つ。詳細は不明。



治

アカギと同じ工場に働いていた少年。アカギに惚れ込み、ついてきた。

登場人物紹介

前巻までの

あらすじ

昭和33年。生命を賭けたヤクザとの麻雀勝負に敗れつつあった南郷を助けた13歳の少年。彼こそ後に裏の麻雀界に君臨することになる赤木しげるであった。特に、盲目の雀士・市川を破った夜は、伝説と化した。しかし、直後に赤木は姿を消し、5年余りが経った……。昭和39年。川田組長は、不良刑事・安岡が売り込んだニセアカギと本物の赤木の対決を画策するが、対局途中であったニセアカギと藤沢組代打ち・浦部の勝負を一瞥した赤木は、浦部の方が格上だと言い放つ。果たして、予言通り浦部は、どちらかがトップをとるまで終わらない倍ブッシュ勝負へと強引に持ち込んだ。ニセアカギを見限った川田組長は、赤木に代打ちを依頼。東場を治に打たせ、卓についた赤木だが、点差はまだ22500点……



浦 部

藤沢組の代打ち。凡庸を装って倍ブッシュ勝負を画策したベテラン。



川田組長(左)と石川

石川は伝説の夜に居合わせた一人。ニセアカギの真贋の判定もした。

目次

●別冊近代麻雀平成7年4月号～平成7年12月号所載

CHAPTER 46 - CROSSROADS	7
CHAPTER 47 - SORCERY	31
CHAPTER 48 - GENUINE	55
CHAPTER 49 - THUNDER AND LIGHTNING	79
CHAPTER 50 - COMPENSATION	103
CHAPTER 51 - PURITY	121
CHAPTER 52 - CALLING	145
CHAPTER 53 - AT HAND	169
CHAPTER 54 - COORDINATION	193



CHAPTER 46 - CROSSROADS

第46話 岐路



AKAGI
VERSUS
URABE.



IF HE CAN BUMP
THIS UP TO A
MANGAN
TSUMO...

AND EVEN
WORSE, EVEN
IF I CAN AVOID
GIVIN' 'IM A
DIRECT HIT...

THAT'D
BE A
COME-
BACK,
TOO.

IF I DEAL INTO
HIS HAND AS
IT IS NOW,
HE'LL TAKE ALL
OF IT BACK

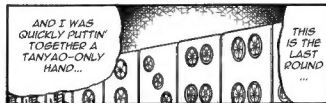
IT'D BE A
COME-
BACK.

EVEN THOUGH I'M
IN THE LEAD AS
FAR AS POINTS
GO, THIS 25,500
POINT DIFFERENCE
MEANS...



URSH
...

DAM-
MIT
...



AND I WAS
QUICKLY PUTTIN'
TOGETHER A
TANYAO-ONLY
HAND...

THIS
IS THE
LAST
ROUND
...



WITH JUST
THAT IN HIS
HAND, HE
ALREADY
HAS A
MANGAN
...

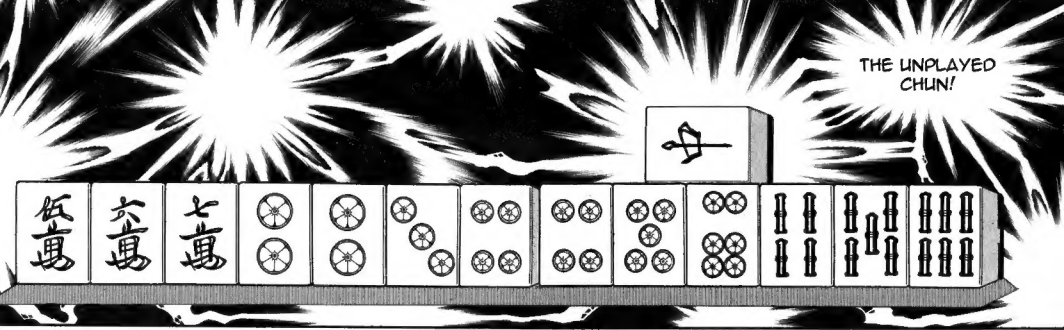
YOU'VE
GOTTA
BE
SHITTIN'
ME...

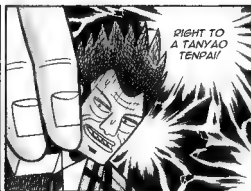
HE'S
AT DORA
4...!

BUT THEN
HE MAKES
THIS CLOSED
KAN OF THE
NEW DORA
...



WHAT
THE
HELL
IS THIS
...







I DOUBT
I'LL BE ABLE
TO GET THIS
HAKU I NEED,
BUT IT CAN'T
BE HELPED.

WELL
...



WITH
A
HAKU
SIN-
GLE
WAIT

THANKS TO
THIS HONOR
TILE, HIS
HAND CAN
NOW ONLY
GET MENZEN
TSUMO FOR
YAKU...



NOW, URABE
CANNOT WIN BY
ANYTHING OTHER
THAN TSUMO.



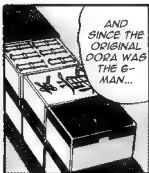
IF HE CAN
TSUMO NOW,
IT'LL ALL BE
OVER...

AT
ANY
RATE
...



HE'S
GOT THE 6-MAN
WORKED INTO
HIS HAND,
TOO.

HE'S
SURE
TO
HAVE
ONE...



AND
SINCE THE
ORIGINAL
DORA WAS
THE 6-
MAN...



HE'S
ALREADY
GOT A
DORA 4
HAND...



AT
THIS
TUNE
...

I WON'T
BE GIVEN
ANY SECOND
CHANCES!



THERE'LL
BE NO WAY
FOR ME TO
ESCAPE!

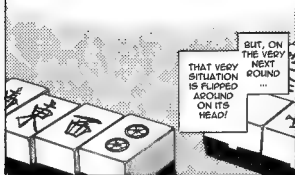
IF HE
MANAGES
TO TSUMO,
IT'LL BE
ALL OVER
FOR ME!

NO
PLACE
TO
RUN!



IF THAT'S RIGHT, HE'S
GOT TANYAO, DORA
5... OR EVEN FANPAI,
DORA 5.

A
HANE-
MAN
HAND.



THAT VERY
SITUATION
IS FLIPPED
AROUND
ON ITS
HEAD!

BUT, ON
THE VERY
NEXT
ROUND ...



IT WOULD
BE AB-
NORMAL
FOR HIM
NOT TO
BE, GIVEN
THE SITU-
ATION.

URABE IS
STILL TOTALLY
ON THE
DEFENSIVE..



AKAGI'S
CHANCE TO
CALL

THE
EIGHTH
TURN



HE
USES
UP THE
2-3-4
MAN...



THE 6-
MAN, THE
DORA THAT
URABE SO
FEARED!

AND
PLAYS
THE 6-
MAN!



CHI!





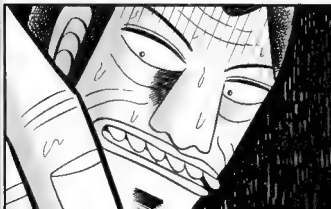
GOD
DAMMIT
...!!



...HAS
GOT TO
BE IN
HIS
HAND.



WHA -
...?!





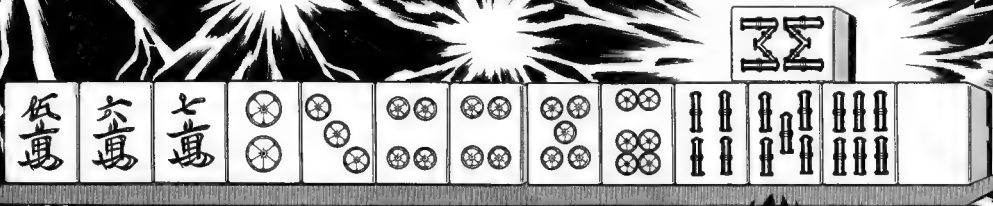
AND THAT MAKES FOUR ...!



HEH-HEH-HEH...



URABE'S 9TH TURN



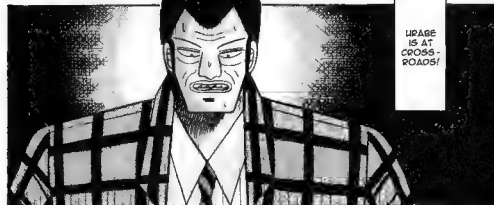
WITH
THAT
7-SOU
KAN...

THE 8-SOU
ISN'T EX-
ACTLY A
SAFE TILE.
EITHER

BUT

SO I
OBTAIN-
OUSLY
CAN'T
PLAY
THAT,
HERE

THE HAKU
IS HIS LAST
POSSIBLE
FANPAI
TILE.



URABE
IS AT
CROSS-
ROADS!

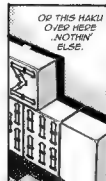
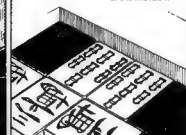


WHAT
SHOULD
I DO



IT
COULD
BE PART
OF HIS
TRAP

FROM THE MO-
MENT IT HAPPENED,
THAT KAN TURNED
ANY 8-SOULS I
DRAW INTO
LANDMINES...



OR THIS HAKU
OVER HERE
...NOTHING
ELSE.



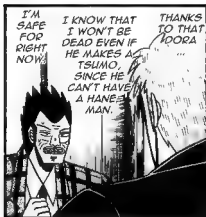
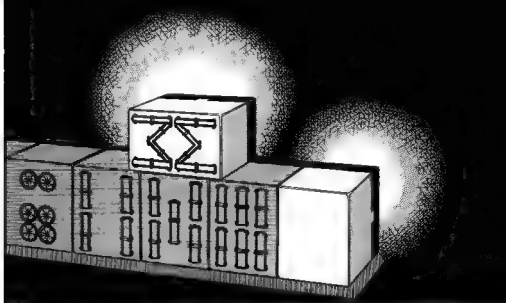
THEN I
NEED
TO PLAY
EITHER
THE 8-
SOU...



IF I WANT
TO KEEP
ANY HAND
IN TENPAI
...



GH



WAIT ...



THE ONLY FEAR I HAVE IS HIM GETTIN' A DIRECT HIT ON ME WITH A MANSAN..





SETTLING
FOR THE
LOWER
HAND IS
PROOF.

AND THAT
2-3-4
MAN CALL
...

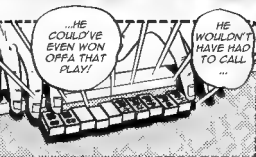


HE'S FEELIN'
LIKE HE NEEDS
TO GET TO
TENPAI AS
FAST AS HE
CAN.

AS THINGS
ARE NOW,
THE FLOW HE
HAD IS LEAVIN'
'IM IN LEAPS
AND BOUNDS
...



YEAH,
JUST
THINK THIS
THROUGH
CALMLY...



...HE
COULD'VE
EVEN WON
OFFA THAT
PLAY!

HE
WOULDN'T
HAVE HAD
TO CALL
...

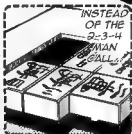


THE
2-MAN THAT
THE GUY TO
HIS LEFT
DEALT 'IM
...

IF HE'D'VE
GOTTEN A
BIT MORE
LUCKY JUST
THEN...



IT'D BE
THIS 4-
5-6 MAN
CALL!



INSTEAD
OF THE
2-3-4
MAN
CALL!



IF IT'D
BEEN A
5-MAN
INSTEAD
OF A
2-MAN
...

OR
INSTEAD,
WITH JUST
THE HAND
HE HAD



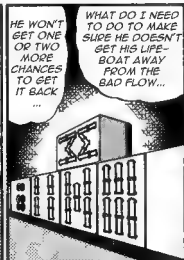
THAT'S A SIGN
OF HIS FLOW
RUNNING
AWAY, FOR
SURE.

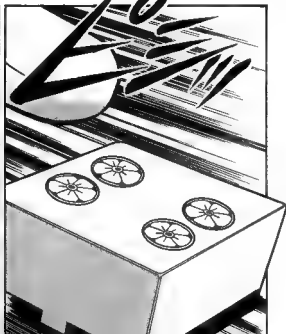
HE
WOULDN'T
HAVE HAD
TO DEAL
THE DORA



IF IT JUST
HADN'T
BEEN THAT
2-MAN
...

THEN, HE'D
HAVE WORKED
THE 6-MAN
INTO HIS
HAND...









ON
THE
13TH
TURN
...

AND THEN,
AS IF PRO-
PELLING HIM
EVEN FURTHER
DOWN THIS
PATH OF
PASSIVENESS
...

HE
RUNS
AWAY
FROM
THE
DANGER
...!

HE
GIVES
UP ON
WINNING
...



IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR HIM
TO HAVE A
HAKU FANPAI
NOW!

AND SINCE THE NORTH
PLAYER PLAYED THE
HAKU ALREADY . THIS
IS THE THIRD ONE I
CAN SEE!

A
HAKU
...

I
GOT
IT...!



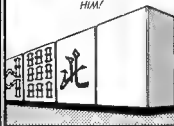
WITH THIS,
THERE'S NO
WAY HE CAN
BE WAITIN'
ON FANPAI
TILES...



HEH-
HEH-
HEH
...



ALL OF THESE TERMINAL
AND HONOR TILES I'VE
BEEN COLLECTING ARE
NOW TOTALLY SAFE
TO PLAY AGAINST
HIM!



SO
NOW
...



NOT
EVEN
THAT!



NO
...

I'VE
PRO-
BAB-
LY
MADE
IT,
THEN!



HEH-
HEH-
HEH

I KNOW I'VE MADE IT!

三萬 勾萬 七萬 四圓 二花 二竹 東 北

BUT IN FACT, IT'S JUST THE OPPOSITE.

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS KISS OUR MONEY GOOD-BYE.

ISHIKAWA-SAN

IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.

IT'S
FINE,
IT'S
FINE.

YOU CAN NEVER BE 100% SURE OF THE OUTCOME.

UNTIL THE FINAL TURN OF THE BATTLE HAS BEEN TAKEN

WHO'S TO SAY HE WON'T STILL DEAL IN?

...ALL THE MONEY AND POSSESSIONS ...

IT COULD TURN AROUND IN AN INSTANT ... ALL THE LITTLE NUMBERS YOU LIKE ...

EVERY LAST BIT COULD COME BACK IN AN INSTANT

IT COULD
TURN AROUND
IN AN INSTANT
...ALL THE
LITTLE NUM-
BERS YOU
LIKE...

SO I'VE GOT 2 FREE TURNS!

THE 5-SOU AND 3-MAN ARE SAFE TILES...

I'VE JUST GOT THREE MORE DRAWS LEFT 'TILL THE MATCH IS OVER!

EVEN IF I GET ONE OR TWO MORE DRAWS FROM PEOPLE CALLIN'...

WITH ALL THAT, I'M INVINCIBLE!

I CAN STILL DEAL ALL'A MY TERMINAL AND HONOR TILES!



THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DEAL IN NOW, 'CAUSE...

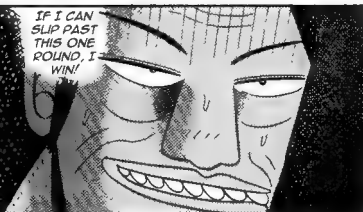
THAT'LL
BE JUST
FINE!



IT'S STILL
WAY TOO
SOON FOR
YOU TO
ASSUME
THAT
YOU'RE
SAFE...



JUST
YOU WAIT
AND SEE
...





CHAPTER 47 - SORcery
第47話 魔法



...IT'LL
COME ON
OVER TO
MY SIDE!

HIS
FLOW IS
FALLING
APART AT
THE
SEAMS
...

IF THAT'S
ALL HE CAN
DO, THEN
I CAN STILL
MOVE ON
...

AS LONG
AS IT'S
JUST THAT,
THERE'S NO
PROBLEM!

...I
CAN HAVE
ANOTHER
SHOT IN
THE NEXT
ROUND!



SO AHEAD
AND GET
YOUR
MANGAN
TSUMO!

DOESN'T
MATTER
TO ME
IF HE
DRAWS
IT OR
NOT...



THE
22,500-
POINT GAP
BETWEEN
US IS MORE
THAN JUST
THAT CAN
SHAKE
OFF.



AND I KNOW
NOW WHERE
ALL THE G-
MANS ARE!

THERE'S
TWO
DORA
RE-
VEALED



NOT
HARD AT
ALL!

ALL I'VE
GOTTA DO
IS EASE ON
BY...



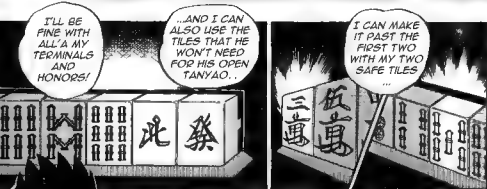
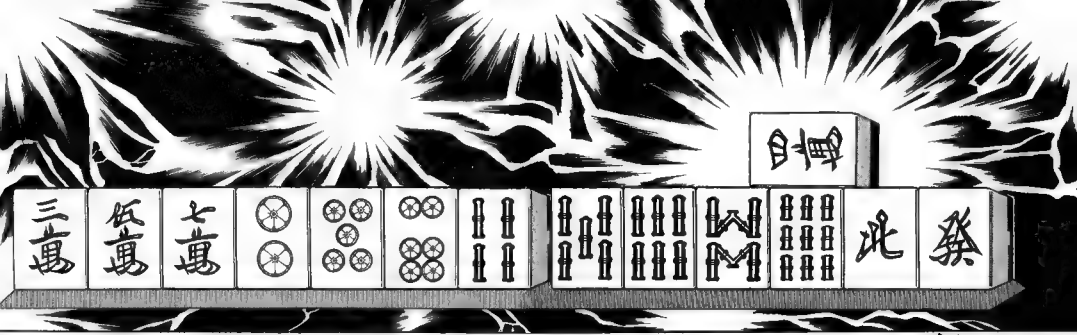
AS LONG AS
I DON'T DEAL
IN, THERE'S
NOTHING TO
FEAR!

HE CAN'T
TURN THIS
GAME BACK
TO HIM WITH
JUST ONE
MANGAN
TSUMO!



CAN'T
BE ANY-
THING BUT
TANYAO,
DORA 4!

AND
THAT MEANS
THAT HIS
HAND.



IN-
DEED
...

HMM-
HMM-
HMM
...

AKAGI
...

I'VE
MADE A
CLEAN
GET-
AWAY!

CERTAINLY, THAT
THERE WAS NO
WAY FOR THE
ROUND TO END
WITH URABE
DEALING INTO
HIS HAND.

IT SEEMED
AS THOUGH
AKAGI WAS
COMPLETELY
OUT OF WAYS
TO BE ABLE
TO WIN THE
MATCH...

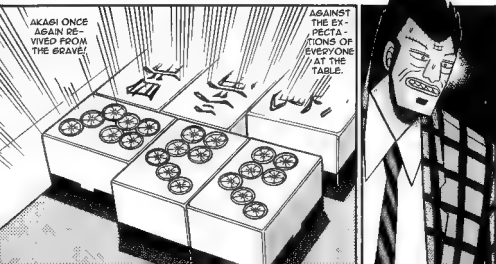
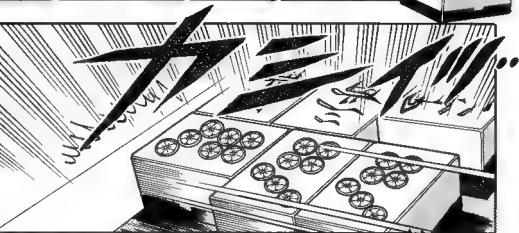
BUT
BEFORE
HE
COULD
EVEN
REACH
FOR HIS
TILE,

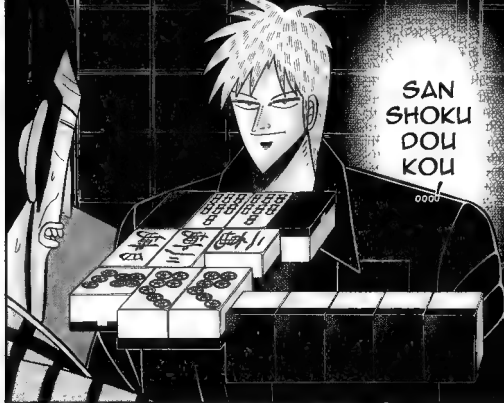
IT WAS
URABE'S TURN
TO TAKE A
TILE FROM THE
WALL, AFTER
THE SOUTH
PLAYER GAVE
UP A 7-PIN...

ON THE
13TH
TURN
...

BUT
DESPITE
THAT
OBVIOUS
THOUGHT
...

THAT
WAS THE
SITUATION
THAT
SEEMED
APPARENT
...





SAN
SHOKU
DOU
KOU



HE'S GOIN'
FOR SAN
SHOKU
DOU
KOU
...

NO
WAY
...



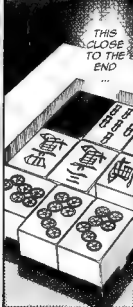


A HAND
LIKE THIS
JUST
POPS
UP?



IT'S PROBABLE
THAT HE'S
WAITING ON
MY HATSU,
OR HAS SOME
WAIT TIED TO
THE 5 AND 8

IF IT'S
REALLY A
SAN SHOKU
DOU KOU, THEN



THIS
CLOSE
TO THE
END
...



WHAT'S
UP WITH
THIS
FLOW?



PINNING
DOWN AN
EXACT
WAIT IS
TOTALLY
IMPOS-
SIBLE!

BUT THAT'S
JUST THE
GENERAL
IDEA.



AND ALL THE
REMAINING
HONOR TILES
ARE VERY LIKELY
TOO!

BUT ALL
THE TILES
FROM 3
TO 7

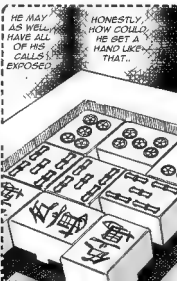


THAT'S JUST
HOW AB-
NORMAL THIS
YAKU IS!

IN FACT,
IT MIGHT
BE MORE
THREAT-
ENING
THAN
EVEN AN
OPEN
YAKU-
MAN.

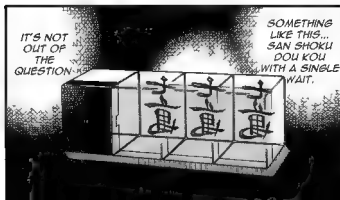
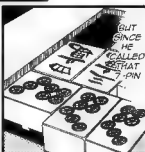
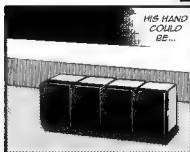
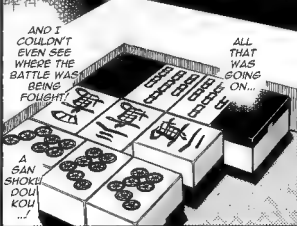


IT'S ALMOST AS
RARE TO GET A
SAN SHOKU DOU
KOU AS IT IS A
DAI SAN SEN...
AND JUST AS
THREATENING!



HE MAY
AS WELL
HAVE ALL
OF HIS
CALLS
EXPOSED

HONESTLY,
HOW COULD
HE GET A
HAND LIKE
THAT..





I NEED
A SAFE
TILE...!



IT'S
ONLY
FAIR
...!



HLIH
...?



7-
MAN
...?





...IT CAN'T HAVE ALL THREE OF THE 7-MAN HIDDEN IN IT!

THIS MEANS THAT HIS HAND ...



THAT'S A GOOD THING ...!

WAIT A SEC



URGH



THAT RIGHT?

HEHEHE...



THERE'S NO WAY FOR HIM TO GET A SAN SHOKU DOU KOU!

IN THAT CASE, AS LONG AS I DON'T DEAL ANY OF MY 7-MANS...



HE'S, AT BEST, IN A DOUBLE WAIT FOR THE 7-MAN AND SOMETHING ELSE...!

IN ORDER FOR IT TO STILL BE A SAN SHOKU DOU KOU ...



SO THAT'S HOW IT IS ...



HEHE HE ...



WELL, WHADDA YA KNOW ...



IT'S JUST LIKE I THOUGHT... THAT MON-STEROUS LUCK IS GETTIN' WORN OUT!



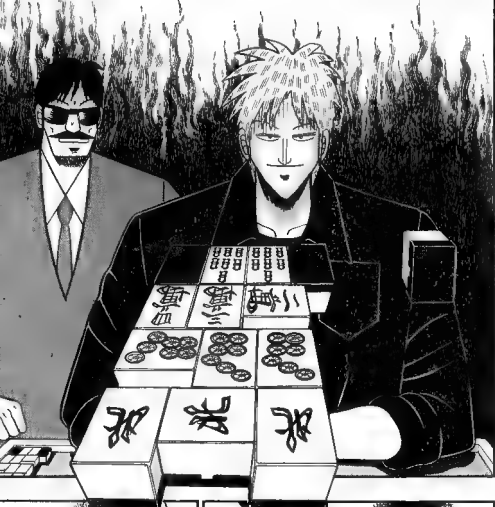
LOOKS LIKE I'M THE ONE WITH THE LUCK, NOW!

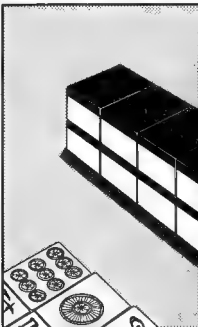
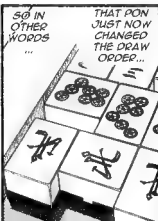
HEHE HE ...

七萬 伍萬 四萬 三萬









WHICH
MEANS
THAT I'LL
HAVE THE
LAST
DRAW...

THE
DEAD
WALL
MOVED
OVER
ONE,
TOO...

AND
SINCE
THERE'S
BEEN A
KAN...

HE'LL RON
OFF OF
THE LAST
DISCARD
?

SO IF
THAT'S
WHAT
HE
MEANT
TO DO
...

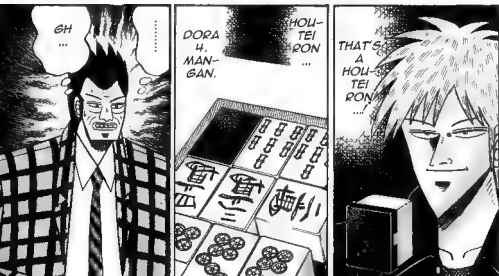


GH
...

DORA
4,
MAN-
GAN.

HOU-
TEI
RON
...

THAT'S
A
HOU-
TEI
RON
...



EVEN THE
SAN SHOKU
DOU KOU
AMOUNTED
TO NOTHING
...!

FROM
THE
TANYAO
TO THE
FANPAI
...

THAT'S
WHAT
HE WAS
GOING
FOR

SO
IT'S
TRUE
...

IT WAS
ALL
JUST A
GIANT
BLUFF
...!

EVERYTHING
HE DID
THROUGH
THE WHOLE
MATCH...

HOW CAN THERE
BE SOMEONE
WHO PLAYS
LIKE THIS?!

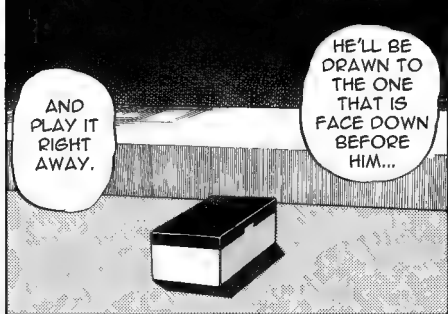
IMPOSSIBLE

HE HAD
ME RUN-
NING
AROUND
IN CIR-
CLES
...!

I WAS
JUST BEING
LED AROUND
BY THIS
KID...

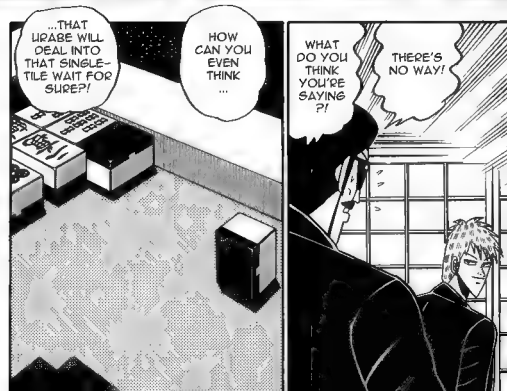
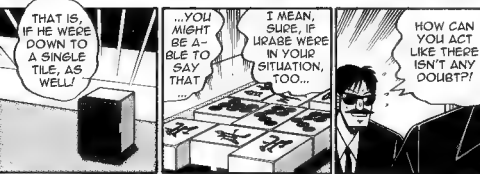








第48話 **本物**
CHAPTER 48 - GENUINE





THAT'S
RIGHT

.....
OO

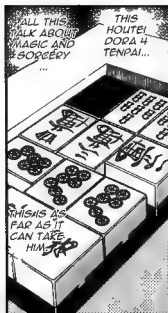


I
DON'T
CARE
HOW
SURE
YOU
ARE!

THERE'S NO
WAY I'LL LET
YOU JUST UP
AND LEAVE US
RIGHT NOW!!



THIS
ISHIKAWA
GUY KNOWS
WHAT HE'S
TALKIN'
'BOUT, AT
LEAST...



ALL THIS
TALK ABOUT
MAGIC AND
SORcery

THIS
HOUTEI
DORA 4
TENPAI...

THIS IS AS
FAR AS IT
CAN TAKE
HIM



IT'S
GOTTA
BE A
BLUFF!



THERE'S
NO
WAY.

WHAT'S THIS
CRAP ABOUT
IT BEING A
SURE THING
THAT I'LL
DEAL IN?



THAT'S
ALL IT
CAN BE
...

I CAN PLAY
ANY OF 'EM
THAT I FEEL
IS SAFE!

I'VE GOT 14
TILES HERE...
12 DIFFERENT
KINDS TO
CHOOSE
FROM



WITH ALL 'A
THAT BEHIND
ME, YOU STILL
THINK I'LL JUST
GIVE YOU THE
ONE YOU
WANT?

IT'S
PLAIN
DUMB TO
THINK
OTHER-
WISE...

GIMME
A FUC-
KIN'
BREAK.

HIS WINNING TILE MIGHT
NOT EVEN BE IN MY
HAND, BUT EVEN IF IT IS,
THERE'S STILL JUST
A 1/12 CHANCE THAT
I'LL PICK IT!

I GET TO
CHOOSE
FOR MY-
SELF!

HE CAN'T
PICK MY
TILE FOR
ME...

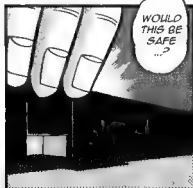


FOR
SURE.

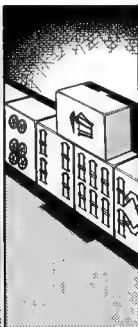
I'LL GET
AROUND
IT.

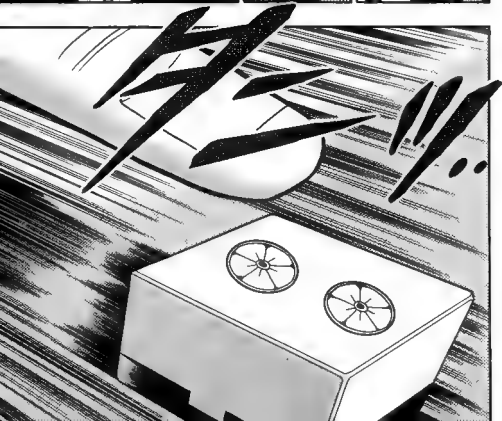


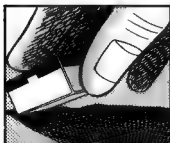
HOW
ABOUT
THIS
...?



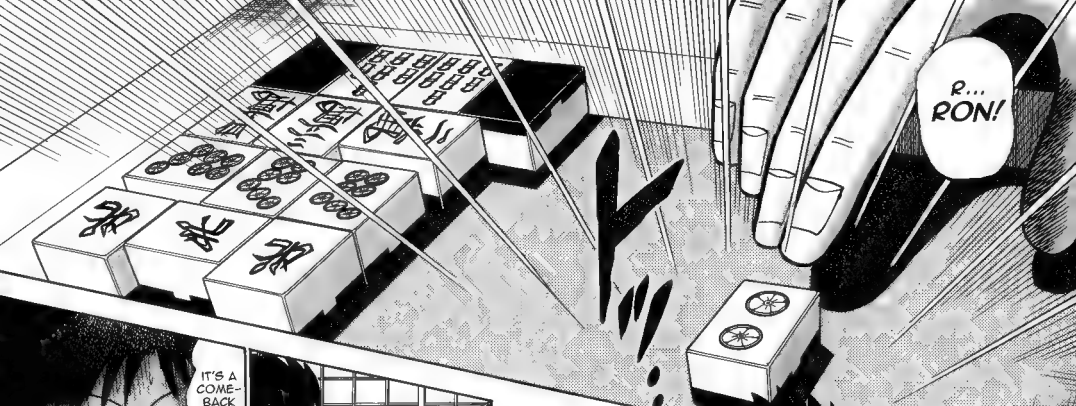
WOULD
THIS BE
SAFE
...?



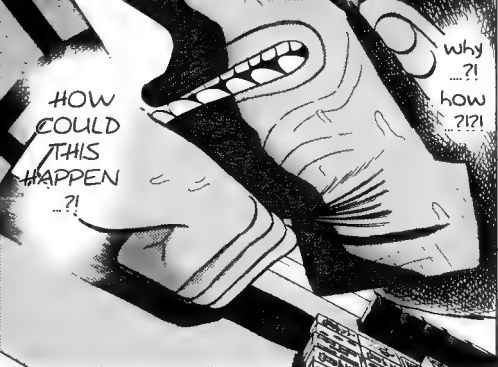




IS THIS
REALLY
HAPPEN-
ING....?!

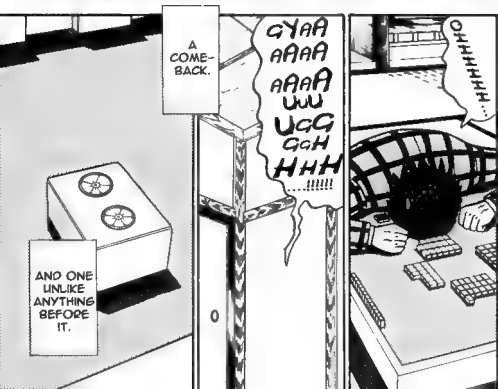






HOW
COULD
THIS
HAPPEN
...?!

why
...?!
how
...?!?

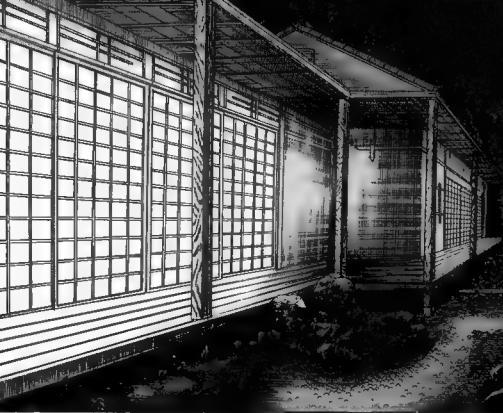


A
COME-
BACK.

AND ONE
UNLIKE
ANYTHING
BEFORE
IT.

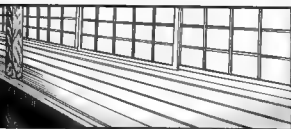
GYAA
AAAA
AAAA
UUU
UGG
GgH
HHH
.....!!!!

OHHHHHH...



...HAS
COME
TO AN
END.

THE
ULTIMATE
DEATH-
MATCH
BETWEEN
AKAGI AND
URABE...



...HAS
PRODUCED
YET
ANOTHER
MIRACLE.

AKAGI
...



WITH
AKAGI'S
COINCIDEN-
TAL SINGLE
PEI WAIT
...

BUT,
STARTING
IN THE
SOUTH
THIRD
ROUND
...

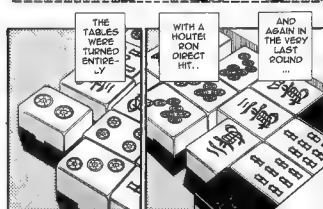
AT ONE POINT,
THE POINT
DIFFERENCE
URABE HAD
OVER AKAGI
HAD REACHED
UPWARDS OF
70,000
POINTS...



THE
TABLES
WERE
TURNED
ENTIRE-
LY

WITH A
HOUTEI
RON
DIRECT
HIT..

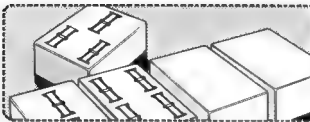
AND
AGAIN IN
THE VERY
LAST
ROUND
...





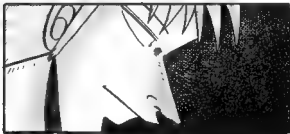
AKAGI, A
MERE BEGINNER,
MANAGED TO
SPECTACULARLY
BRING DOWN THE
BLIND MAHJONG
MASTER,
ICHIKAWA.

SIX
YEARS
AGO
...



HAS BEEN
SHOWN
AGAIN,
FURTHER
SOLIDIFYING
THE LEGEND
OF AKAGI
SHIGERU.

THAT
LONG NIGHT,
ENDING IN
A WAIT THAT
SEEMED
THE STUFF
OF WITCH-
CRAFT...









AKAGI.

THERE IS
NO DOUBT
IN MY MIND
THAT ALL OF
THE LEGENDS
ARE TRUE
ABOUT YOUR
SKILL...



OH,
NO,
NO!

...
KUMI-
CHOU
...



BUT... I DO
HAVE SOME
QUESTIONS
I'D LIKE TO
BE AN-
SWERED.

HMM?



THAT'S
NOT
WHAT
I'M
ASKING
FOR

I KNOW FULL
WELL THAT YOU
DON'T LIKE THAT
KIND OF STRUC-
TURED GAME-
PLAY..



I'M NOT
TRYING TO
GET YOU
TO PLAY
FOR US
...

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT!

IT'S
NO-
THING
LIKE
THAT!



IT WOULD
BE VERY
KIND OF
YOU!

IF YOU
COULD
JUST
TELL
ME THAT
...

YOU
SEEP



...IT
WILL
KEEP
ME UP
AT
NIGHT!

IF I DON'T
KNOW FOR
SURE HOW
YOU CAME
TO THAT
CONCLU-
S ON...

IT
WOULD
JUST BE
TORTUR-
OUS!



...HOW DID
YOU KNOW
FOR SURE
THAT URABE
WOULD PLAY
THE 2-PIN?

IN THE
LAST
ROUND OF
THE MATCH
JUST
NOW...



DID THE
GAME GET
PUT AWAY
ALREADY?



NO
PROB-
LEMS
THERE!



I'M AS-
KING IF
THE GAME
WAS LEFT
ALONE.



LET'S
GO
THERE,
THEN

GOOD,
GOOD
...!!



I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
BE ABLE
TO USE IT
TO EX-
PLAN!

THE TABLE
WAS LEFT
AS IT WAS
WHEN YOU
LEFT!

THE OTHERS
ARE ALREADY
GONE, BUT
...

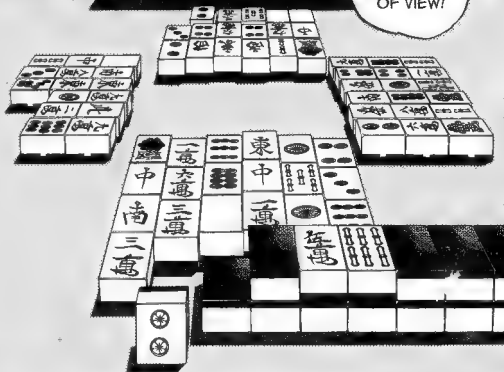


THAT'S
RIGHT

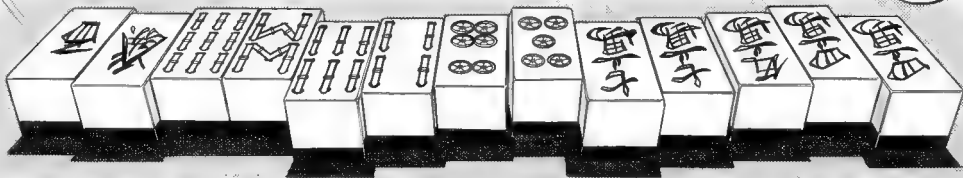
THIS
IS JUST
HOW IT
WAS.



IT LOOKED
JUST LIKE
THIS FROM
YOUR POINT
OF VIEW!



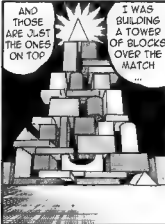
AT THE TIME HE WAS CHOOSING A TILE TO PLAY, HIS HAND WAS IN THIS SHAPE.



SO I'LL START AT THE VERY BOTTOM AND WORK UPWARDS

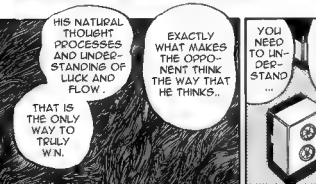
IF I EXPLAINED THE STORY STARTING AT THE BOTTOM, YOU WOULDN'T END. YOU KNOW HOW I GOT THERE.

AND THOSE ARE JUST THE ONES ON TOP. I WAS BUILDING A TOWER OF BLOCKS OVER THE MATCH



MMM.

THE BOTTOM, YOU SAY?



HIS NATURAL THOUGHT PROCESSES AND UNDERSTANDING OF LUCK AND FLOW.

EXACTLY WHAT MAKES THE OPPONENT THINK THE WAY THAT HE THINKS..

YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND



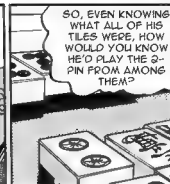
IN ORDER TO WIN IN MAH-JONG

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART.



BEFORE EVEN THAT

WELL, NO



SO, EVEN KNOWING WHAT ALL OF HIS TILES WERE, HOW WOULD YOU KNOW HE'D PLAY THE 2-PIN FROM AMONG THEM?



...AS YOU CAN SEE, HE HAD A RATHER WIDE VARIETY OF TILES TO CHOOSE FROM

THERE WEREN'T ANY SAFE TILES, BUT.



WE HAVE TO DIVE BELOW THE SURFACE...

...HOW I KNEW THAT HE WOULD PLAY THE 2-PIN OUT OF ALL OF THOSE 14 TILES...



AND MORE-OVER

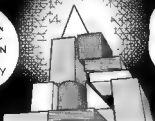
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW I KNEW THAT HE HAD A 2-PIN...



KUMI-CHOU

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT HE EVEN HAD A 2-PIN IN HIS HAND TO BEGIN WITH?

AND ON
IT, I BEGIN
THE CON-
STRUCTION
OF MY STRATEGY
BUILDING
HIGHER
AND HIGHER
UNTIL I
REACH MY
GOAL.



THAT'S
THE FOUN-
DATION
...

NATURAL
THOUGHT
PROCESSES
...?



YEAH.

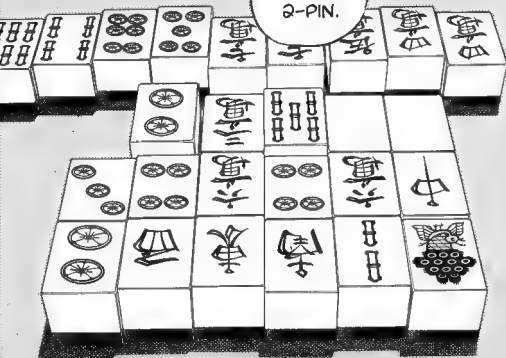
LEAD
HIM
...



IF I DO
THAT
JUST RIGHT,
THEN I
CAN GUIDE
URABE...



STRAIGHT
TO THAT
2-PIN.





...THEIR
TRUE NATURES
TEND TO SHOW
THEMSELVES

WHENEVER
PEOPLE ARE
CONFRONTED
WITH DANGER
...



...WILL
THEY
STAND
STILL AND
WAIT?

OR
PER-
HAPS
...

OR INSTEAD,
WILL THEY FACE
THEIR FEAR
HEAD ON?

WHEN
THEY BEGIN
TO FEEL
FEARFUL,
WILL THEY
RUN AWAY?



TRYING TO
WIN A BATTLE
OF THIS SCALE
AGAINST HIM
WOULD BE
SIMPLY OUT
OF THE
QUESTION

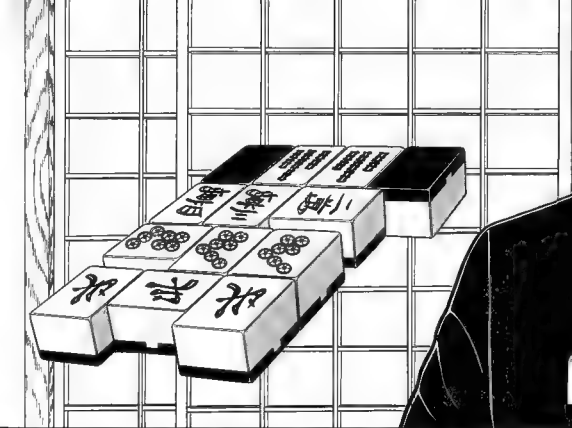
WITHOUT
ASCE-
RTAIN-
ING
WHAT LIES
BENEATH
THE SUR-
FACE,

I HAD TO
PLACE HIM
INTO A
SITUATION
WHERE THE
DATA
WOULD BE
ACCURATE

IN ORDER TO
ACCURATELY
MEASURE
WHAT HIS
NATURAL
TENDENCY
IS...

IT WAS
CRITICAL TO
SET THOSE
MEAS-
URE-
MENTS AT
THE VERY
BEGINNING
OF MY TIME
PLAYING

WITHOUT
DISCERNING
THAT MUCH
THERE WOULD
BE NO WAY
FOR ME TO
ADVANCE



CHAPTER 49 - THUNDER
AND LIGHTNING

第49話 風雷



WELL ...

THE HIGH WAGES ON THE MATCH MAY HAVE MADE HIM A BIT MORE CAREFUL THAN HE USUALLY WOULD BE, BUT EVEN SO...

HE WANTED TO SEE OSAMU'S SKILL FOR HIMSELF ...

GETTING A FEEL OF OSAMU'S SKILL LEVEL

FOR A PLAYER OF LI-RABE'S CLASS,



YEAH.

SOME-THING IMPORTANT ...?

...I SENSED SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT WAS VERY IMPORTANT ...

THE MOMENT HE DID THAT ...



...SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT, EVEN WITH JUST A GLANCE... BUT STILL, HE WAITED.



LI-RABE DIDN'T GO AND ATTACK OSAMU RIGHT AWAY

AT THE TIME I DID SO,



HE SWAM AROUND H.M. FIRST.



SENDING OSAMU OUT AT LI-RABE AS BAIT TO ATTRACT HIS SENSES ...

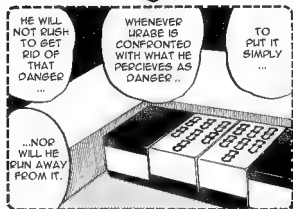
AT THE BEGINNING,



...WAS A CRUCIAL PART OF THAT MEASUREMENT.



HMM-HMM-HMM ...



HE PRO-
CEEDED TO
TAKE EVERY
DISCARD HE
MADE WITH
CAUTION.

AT THE
TIME WHERE
I WAS CAL-
LING RICH
RIGHT AFTER
HITTING
TENPAI...

HE
STILL
KEPT
THAT
TEN-
DENCY

EVEN AFTER
I STEPPED
INTO OSAMU'S
PLACE AND
CONTINUED
THE GAME...

AND HE WAS
ABLE TO GET
A WIN BY JUST
PLAYING WITH
DEFENSE AS
THE FIRST PRI-
ORITY

IT
WORKED
OUT TO
HIS
FAVOR

HE
SURE
DID.

HE LOST
SOMETHING
...?

HE GAVE
UP SOME-
THING VERY
IMPOR-
TANT

BUT IN
DOING
THAT

EVERYTHING
ABOUT HIS
GAMEPLAY
METHODS
ROSE TO THE SUR-
FACE

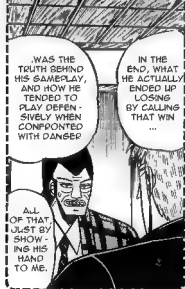
ALL OF
THOSE
HABITS
AND TEN-
DENCIES

AND
WHICH
TILES HE
THOUGHT
WOULD
PASS.

WHICH
TILES HE
HAD TO
HOLD
ON TO

...AND WHAT
KINDS OF
HANDS HE
COULD GET
BY JUST
PLAYING
THOSE.

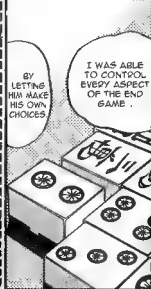
HE REVEALED
WHICH TILES
HE THOUGHT
WOULD BE
SAFE...



...WAS THE TRUTH BEHIND HIS GAMEPLAY, AND HOW HE TENDED TO PLAY DEFENSIVELY WHEN CONFRONTED WITH DANGER

IN THE END, WHAT HE ACTUALLY ENDED UP LOSING BY CALLING THAT WIN ...

ALL OF THAT, JUST BY SHOWING HIS HAND TO ME.



BY LETTING HIM MAKE HIS OWN CHOICES

I WAS ABLE TO CONTROL EVERY ASPECT OF THE END GAME .



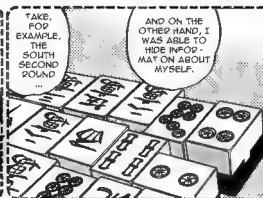
...USING THAT CRITICAL SET OF INFORMATION ...

AND NOT TOO LONG AFTER ...



I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE 8000 POINTS I HAD TO GIVE UP.

I CLAIMED THAT I WAS IN NOTEN DESPITE HAVING DECLARED RIICHI JUST A BIT BEFORE ..



TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SOUTH SECOND ROUND ...

AND ON THE OTHER HAND, I WAS ABLE TO HIDE INFORMATION ABOUT MYSELF.



BUT IT FELT FLAT ON ITS FACE WHEN HE HAD NOTHING TO WORK WITH

HE PLAYED WITH HIS STYLE OF RESERVATION IN ORDER TO TRY AND GET SOME INFORMATION ON HIS OPPONENT

IN ORDER TO BRING THAT SITUATION ABOUT ...



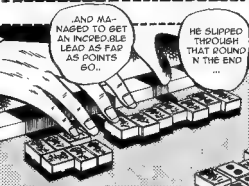
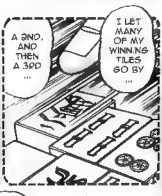
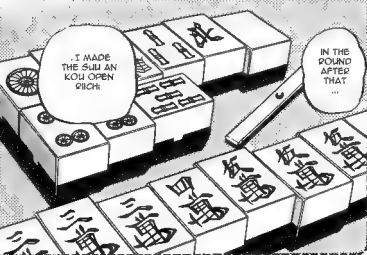
I GOT THE BETTER END OF THE DEAL.

BUT THE REAL ADVANTAGE WAS MINE HAVING NOT GIVEN ANY INFORMATION AWAY.



URABE GOT THE APPARENT ADVANTAGE BY SECURING AN EXTRA 8000 POINTS OVER ME..

WHEN THAT HAPPENED ...



IN THE FIRST
HONBA OF THE
SOUTH SECOND
ROUND, I WAS
A MONSTROUS
70,000
POINTS OVER
ME

BUT
HE WAS
ABLE TO
REST
MORE
EASILY
WITH HIS
LEAD..

AND
THAT IM-
PRESSION
WOULD NOT
DISAPPEAR
SO EASILY.

BUT HIS
IMPRESSION OF
ME GOT EVEN
MORE FOSSY
...

.. HE
BEGAN
TO RUN
AWAY

IN ORDER
TO PRE-
SERVE HIS
LEAD OVER
ME
...

WITH
THAT
THOUGHT
IN MIND
...

中 中 萬 中 中

ALL I
DID
WAS
AT-
TACK
WHILE
HE
WAS
RUN-
NING!



HUH
...?!

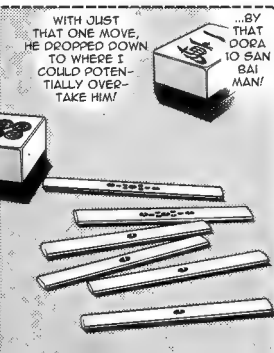
RON.



TO A
NORMAL
PERSON
...

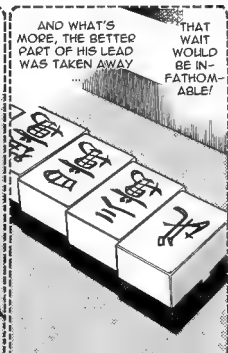


WITH
THAT
COIN-
CIDENTAL
PEI
SINGLE
WAIT!



WITH JUST
THAT ONE MOVE,
HE DROPPED DOWN
TO WHERE I
COULD POTENTIALLY
OVERTAKE HIM!

...BY
THAT
DORA
TO SAN
BAI
MAN!



AND WHAT'S
MORE, THE BETTER
PART OF HIS LEAD
WAS TAKEN AWAY
...

THAT
WAIT
WOULD
BE IN-
FATHOM-
ABLE!



HE'S
GETTING
QUITE
CLOSE
TO CAT-
CHING UP

ARE YOU
SURE YOU
CAN DO
THIS?



URABE



DON'T
WORRY
YOUR-
SELF

HHH
HH



URABE
MADE HIMSELF
APPEAR AS
THOUGH HE WAS
NOT WORRIED
BY WHAT HAD
JUST HAPPENED
...

...BUT
IN TRUTH,
HE WAS
TREMBLING
BENEATH
THAT TOUGH
EXTERIOR HE
MADE FOR
HIMSELF



AT
THAT
TIME,



...BUT HE
HAD YET TO
SO MUCH AS
SEE HIS
OPPONENT'S
ABILITY.

THIS WAS
A GAME
WORTH AN
INCREDIBLE
AMOUNT OF
MONEY FOR
HIM.



...HE
STILL HAD
NO IDEA
HOW I
WOULD
PLAY.

AND EVEN
THOUGH HE
HAD HAD ALL
THREE OF THE
PREV. OLS
ROUNDS TO
OBSERVE ME
...



I
WAS
BEGIN-
NING TO
CATCH UP
TO HIM

THE TYPE
OF PRES-
SURE HE
WAS
FEELING
HAD CHANGED
...



HE
COULD
NO LONGER
THINK
STRAIGHT
...

HIS LEGS
WERE BEING
STOLEN OUT
FROM BE-
NEATH HIM
...



OF
TERROR
...

HIS MIND
WAS BE-
GINNING TO
BE SUFFO-
CATED BY
FEELINGS OF
OPPRESSION
AND DREAD
...

THE
FEAR
PUSHED
HIS
COLD
SWEAT
FROM
EVERY
PORE
...

FROM THE DARKEST CHASMS OF HIS MIND...



Huhh

Huhh



HE HAD TO
MAKE IT TO
THE NEXT
ROUND
...



HE HAD
TO MAKE IT
TO THE
OPPOSITE
SHORE!
...

OH HOW
HE NOTICED
...

AND
YET
...



THE MORE
HE MOVED,
IT SEEMED,
THE FASTER
HE WOULD
SINK
...

HIS WHOLE
BODY WAS
GRADUALLY
SINKING INTO
THE SWAMP
THAT HE FELL
INTO
...



HIS FIELD
OF VISION
DID NOT
GO FAR
ENOUGH
...

EVEN
STRAIN-
ING HIS
EYES
AS BEST
HE COULD
...



"WHERE IN
THE WORLD
WAS IT?"
...

"WHERE
WAS THE
SHORE?"
...



"BUT
WAIT", HE
THOUGHT
"... HOLD
ON."
...

HE
FRANTICALLY
PUSHED HIS
LIMBS TO TRY
AND GET TO
SHORE...

HE
BECAME
PARA-
LYZED
WITH
FEAR.

HE COULD
NOT TELL
WHICH WAY
HE CAME
FROM...
EVERY
DIRECTION
LOOKED
THE SAME





HOW-
EVER ...

AND DO
WHAT HIS
REASON
TOLD HIM
TO DO

ALL HE
COULD DO
WAS APPLY
HIS EXPERI-
ENCES IN PAST
GAMES OF
MAHJONG

SHEER
REASON
AND
LOGIC.
NOTHING
MORE



...CAN BE
TAKEN
ADVANTAGE
OF, IN AND
OF ITSELF!

THAT VERY
RATIONAL
MINDSET



...HE COULD
DO NOTHING
BUT BECOME
MY PREY!

ONCE I
HAD HIM
THINKING
LIKE
THAT..

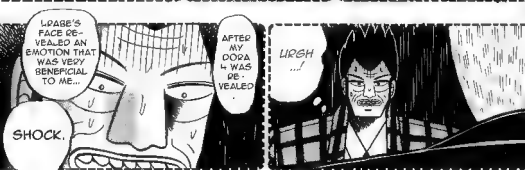
THAT
WAS ALL
THAT I
HAD TO
DO

GETTING
HIM IN THAT
MINDSET
WAS MY
GOAL FROM
THE OUT-
SET

SINCE I
WAS THE
ONE
CHASING
AFTER
HIM
..

カシヤッ



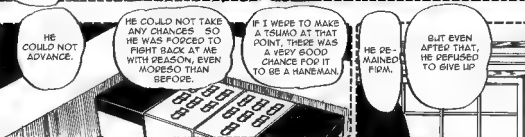


LRABE'S
FACE RE-
VEALED AN
EMOTION THAT
WAS VERY
BENEFICIAL
TO ME...

AFTER
MY DORA
4 WAS RE-
VEALED

LIRSH
...

SHOCK.



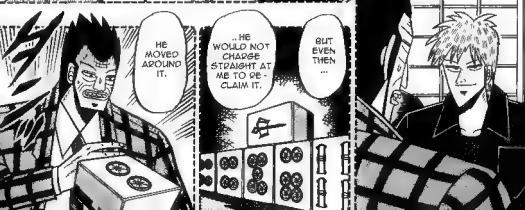
HE
COULD NOT
ADVANCE.

HE COULD NOT TAKE
ANY CHANCES SO
HE WAS FORCED TO
FIGHT BACK AT ME
WITH REASON, EVEN
MORE SO THAN
BEFORE.

IF I WERE TO MAKE
A TSUMO AT THAT
POINT, THERE WAS
A VERY GOOD
CHANCE FOR IT TO
BE A HANEMAN.

HE RE-
MAINED
FIRM.

BUT EVEN
AFTER THAT,
HE REFUSED
TO GIVE UP



HE
MOVED
AROUND
IT.

..HE
WOULD NOT
CHARGE
STRAIGHT AT
ME TO RE-
CLAIM IT.

BUT
EVEN
THEN
...





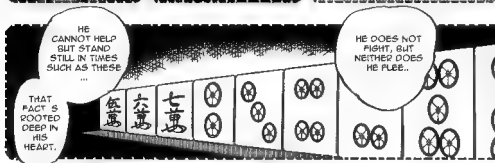
TRULY
...

THAT IS
WHY HE
DECIDED TO
FREEZE IN
HIS TRACKS
...

WHEN
UP AGAINST
DANGER, HIS
TRUE NATURE
TAKES CON-
TROL.

IN TRUTH,
THAT 2-PIN
WAS INDIC-
ATIVE OF HIS
TRUE NATURE
...

WITH
HIS
2-PIN.



HE
CANNOT HELP
BUT STAND
STILL IN TIMES
SUCH AS THESE
...

THAT
FACT IS
ROOTED
DEEP IN
HIS HEART.

HE DOES NOT
FIGHT, BUT
NEITHER DOES
HE FLEE...



.. I MADE A
2-3-4 MAN
CH..

AND ONLY
A FEW
TURNS
LATER
...

IN OTHER
WORDS, I
EXPOSED
THAT I
NEITHER
HAD TO
WIN NOR
LOSE.

AFTER THAT,
HE TOOK TO
DISCARDING
EVERY SINGLE
SAFE TILE
THAT CAME
HIS WAY.

IT
CAME
OVER
HIM
ALL OF
A SU-
DEN..

...IT
BECAME
APPARENT
THAT HIS
WEAKER
SIDE WAS
BEGINNING
TO E-
MERGE

ONCE I
SAW THAT
HE HAD
MADE
THAT
DECISION
...



SO ALL HE NEEDED TO LOOK OUT FOR WAS A DIRECT HIT MANGAN.

IT COULD NO LONGER REACH A HANEMAN TSUMO ...



MY HAND WAS LIMITED DOWN TO TANYAO OR FANPAI, DORA 4.

SO IN OTHER WORDS ...

AND NOT LONG AFTER, HE WAS ABLE TO SEE WHERE ALL OF THE DORA TILES WERE .

.. HE THREW AWAY THE 4-PIN

AND SO HE WAS OUT OF IT...



HE FIGURED THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY NEED TO WIN THIS PARTICULAR HAND ...

AND AFTERWARDS, HE DREW A RISKY TILE.



THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE ON HIS MIND AT THAT MOMENT



NO MATTER WHAT, HE HAD TO SAVE FACE.

IT BECAME PAINFUL FOR HIM ...



HE COULD ONLY THINK OF DELAYING IT UNTIL THE NEXT GAME, SO HE COULD WIN THERE ..

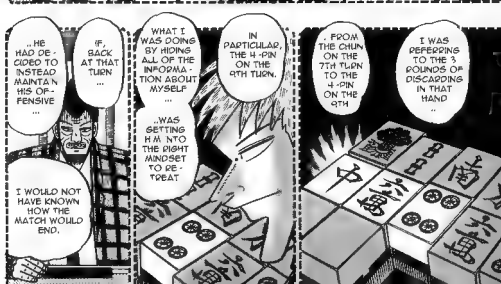
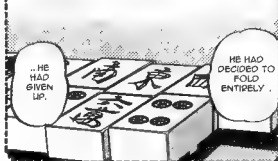
HE NO LONGER HAD ANY INTENTION OF GOING AT ME DIRECTLY AND TAKING THE SAME BACK BY FORCE

.. WAS A SIGN OF HIM STANDING STILL AND OBSERVING.

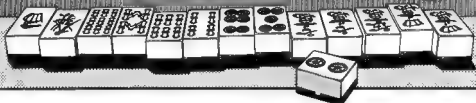
THIS 4-PIN, AS WELL ...

HE RAN FROM ME IN THE NAME OF PRESERVATION

IT COULD BE CALLED A BAD HABIT THAT HE EXHIBITED.



SINCE HIS FINAL
HAND ENDED UP
AS THIS..

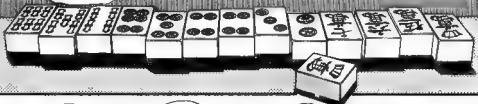


FOR
EXAMPLE
...

THERE ARE
MANY WAYS
THAT HE COULD
HAVE WON

LOOKING
AT WHAT
HE CHOSE
TO DIS-
CARD,

HE COULD
HAVE TAKEN
THIS SHAPE TO
A WIN



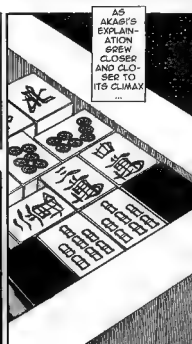
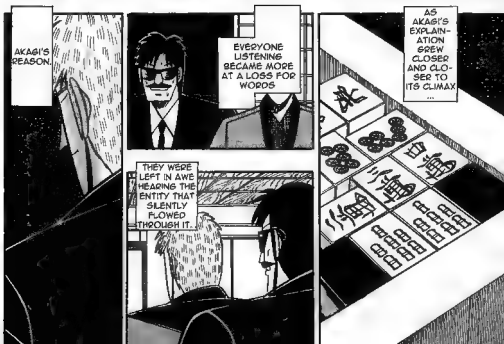
WE COULD
SIT AROUND
ALL DAY PLTTING
TOGETHER
WINNING HANDS
IF WE REALLY
WANTED TO

SO WHAT
COULD HAVE
HAPPENED
NORMALLY
ISN'T REALLY
IMPORTANT
...

HE NEVER
WOULD'VE
GOTTEN
THERE
ANYWAY
...

I PLAY
TO PRE-
VENT HIM
FROM SO
MUCH AS
FORMING
A HAND

WELL
...
REALLY
...





IT TOOK
ALL OF THAT
DATA AND
GRADUALLY
WORKED FROM THERE
...

IT WAS
LIKE A
LIVING
MODE OF
REASON



AND THE
MENTALITY
HE HAD AT
THE TIME,
WHEN IT
WAS MOST
NEEDED

IT
MEA-
SURED
URABE'S
PULSE
...

IT WAS
NOT
BASED
SOLELY
IN PRO-
BABILITY
...



THE WAY HE
SO EASILY
EXPLAINED
HOW HE
CONSTRUCTED
EVERY ASPECT
OF URABE'S
MIND

HE
SEEMED
AS IF HE
WAS ON
A HIGH-
ER PLANE
OF EX-
ISTENCE.



AKAGI'S
CLEAR,
CONCISE
WAY OF
SPEAKING
...



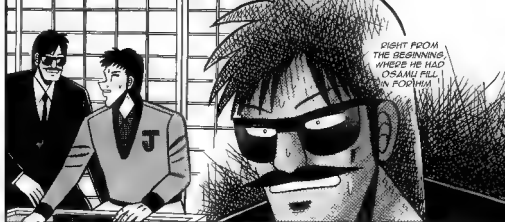
IT
WAS
...



...WAS
ALL LIKE
PUTTING
HIS CHESS
PIECES IN
THE BEST
POSITION
TO WIN
...?

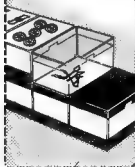
EVERYTHING HE DID





RIGHT FROM
THE BEGINNING,
WHERE HE HAD
OSAMU FILL
IN FOR HIM!

EVERYTHING THAT
HAPPENED WAS PART
OF HIS MASTER
PLAN...?!

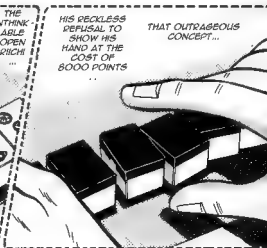


THE
LINTHINK-
ABLE
OPEN
RICH!



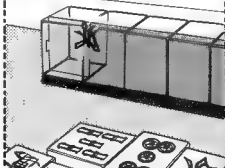
HIS RECKLESS
REFUSAL
TO SHOW HIS
HAND AT THE
COST OF
8000 POINTS

THAT OUTRAGEOUS
CONCEPT...



THERE'S
NOTHING
ELSE YOU
CAN CALL
THAT
HELL
WAIT.

EVEN WITH
THAT IN MIND,
IT WAS STILL
EXTREMELY
RECKLESS



IT WASN'T ALL
DUE TO HIS CAL-
CULATIONS..
THE MATERIALS
DIDN'T TAKE HIM
THE WHOLE WAY



... NO





...IT
COULD NOT
HAVE TURNED
OUT BETTER
FOR HIM!



EVEN
THOUGH
HE WAS
VERY
RECKLESS
WITH THAT
WAIT

...BUT
EVEN
SO
...



BUT
NEVER-
THELESS
...

I COULDN'T
EXPLAIN IT
IF YOU
ASKED ME
TO.



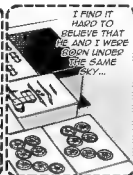
HIS MAHJONG
STYLE IS JUST
IMPOSSIBLE TO
READ!

HE CAN RESTRAIN
URABE LIKE
THAT, OR ANY-
ONE ELSE FOR
THAT MATTER



...AND
SENSES
AS SHARP
AS A
KNIFE.

HE HAS
UN-
MATCHED
LUCK
...



I FIND IT
HARD TO
BELIEVE THAT
HE AND I WERE
BORN UNDER
THE SAME
SKY...



...WAS
NO MATCH
FOR AKASHI

FROM THE
VERY START,
URABE...



IT'S LIKE
TRYING TO
CHASE
THUNDER OR
CATCH
LIGHTNING

THEY
CAN
NEVER
SEE IT
COMING



YOU
CAN'T
JUST
THINK
YOUR
WAY OUT
OF IT

IT'S
INCON-
CEIVABLE
...

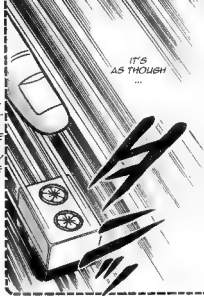


EVEN
NOW, WHERE
WE ARE



IT'S
SOMETHING
THAT DEFIES
ANALYSIS

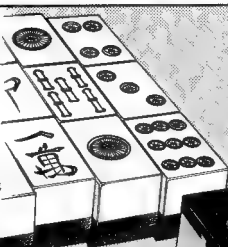
HE
WAS
CON-
TROL-
LING
LIBRE
WITH
EVERY
MOVE
...



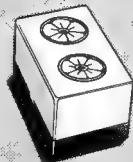
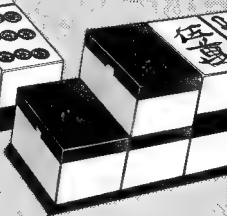
IT'S
AS THOUGH
...

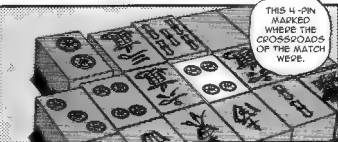
NORMAL
PEOPLE CAN
NEVER
QUANTIFY IT
...

AKAGI'S
STRATEGY,
AS UN-
STOPPABLE
AS THUNDER
OR LIGHTNING
...

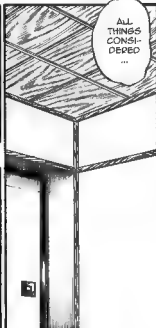


THERE IS NO
WAY TO EXPLAIN
IT SHORT OF IT
BEING THE
WILL OF THE
HEAVENS
THEMSELVES
...





THIS 4-PIN
MARKED
WHERE THE
CROSSROADS
OF THE MATCH
WERE.



ALL
THINGS
CONSIDERED
...



URABE GOES
ON THE
DEFENSIVE
FROM HERE,
100%.

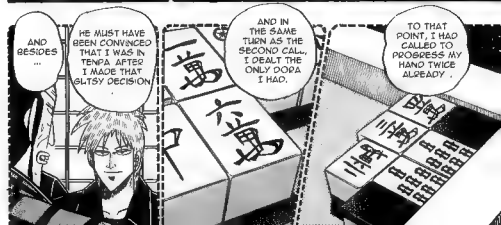
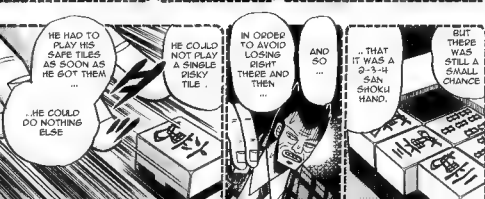
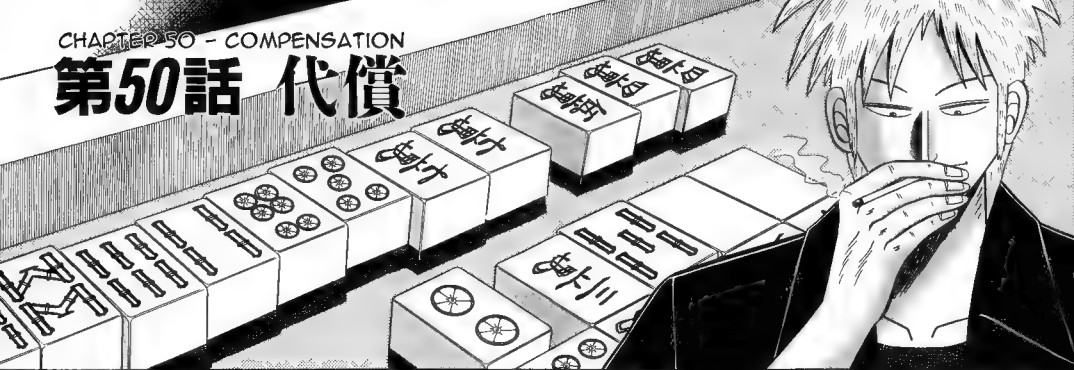
AFTER
THAT
DEAL..

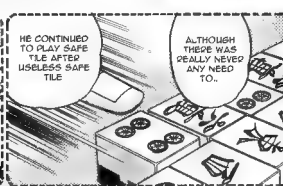


HE DEALS
NOTHING BUT
SAFE TILE
AFTER SAFE
TILE .

HE'S
OUT OF
THE GAME
WITH THAT

第50話 代償





...HE WAS
COMPLETELY OUT
OF SAFE TILES!

白

四萬

四萬

五萬

七萬

七萬

●●●●

●●●●

●●●●

●●●●

●●●●

●●●●

●●●●

●●●●

●●●●

THE GAME
HAD ALREADY
LONG SINCE
SURPASSED HIS
ABILITY TO
READ ME,
LET ALONE
MY HAND

THERE
WAS NO-
THING HE
COULD DO
TO TELL
WHAT I
WAS.

MADE
POSSIBLE
BY MY
SINGLE
TILE
WAIT.

THAT
WAS MY
SNEAK
ATTACK
...

BUT IN
FACT, IN
ALL OF THE
SAME TO
THAT POINT,
THE ONLY
YAKU I HAD
AIMED FOR

UP TO THAT
MOMENT, HE
HAD ASSUMED
THAT MY HAND
HAD TO BE A
TANYAO HAND
TO BE WORTH
ANYTHING...

WAS
HOUTEI
RON!

THAT WAS JUST
HOW FAR HIS
SUSPICIONS OF
ME HAD SPREAD.

HE WAS
UNABLE TO
BRING HIMSELF
TO DO THAT
...

BUT
ALAS
...

HE
COULD
HAVE
JUST
PLAYED
HIS XIA
...

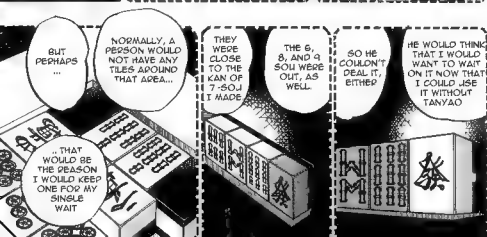
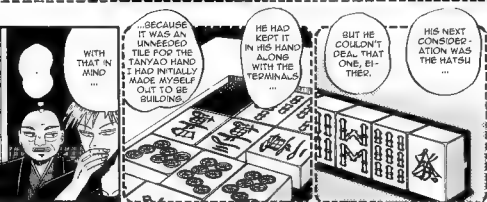
SINCE
THAT WAS
HOW THE
GAME WAS
...

IT WAS AS IF
HIS HEART
ITSELF HAD
BECOME IN-
FECTED BY
SUSPICION

AT THAT
TIME, EVERY
TILE IN HIS
HAND SEEMED
LIKE A LAND-
MINE TO
HIM

THAT WAS
THE ONLY
TRULY
RANDOM
VARIABLE
I HAD NO
WAY OF
WORKING IT
INTO MY
TRAP

THEY ALL SEEMED
EQUALLY RISKY TO
HIM!



IT WAS
A LEFT-
OVER TILE
FROM THE
SAN SHOKU
DOU KOU.

IN THE
SAME
VEN, THE
7-MAN
WAS
GONE,
TOO.

ALSO
DIDN'T
FEEL
SAFE
TO
DEAL.

THE ONES
AROUND
THE 7-PIN
I CALLED
...

AND
FOR THE
SAME
REASON
AS THE
SOJUZU
TILES
...

HE COULD
NOT FIND
ANY GOOD
REASON TO
DEAL IT
...

THERE WAS
A HIGH
CHANCE THAT
I'D HAVE A
LEFTOVER
TILE FROM
IT

IF IT TURNED OUT
THAT I WAS, IN
FACT, GOING FOR
THE SAN SHOKU
DOU KOU BEFORE
...

SO
IN THE
END
...

OBVIOUSLY,
DEALING
THAT WOULD
BE UNTHINK-
ABLE

THEY WERE
NEAR THE
3-MAN I'D
DEALT ON THE
TURN BEFORE

AS FOR
THE 4
AND 5
MAN
...

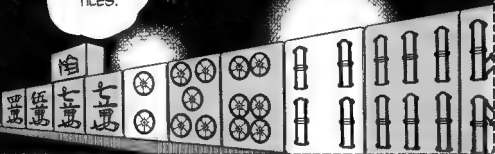
SO THERE
WAS NO
WAY HE
COULD
PLAY THAT
ONE

THE
2-PIN
AND
4-SOU
...!

THERE WERE
ONLY TWO TILES
THAT HE COULD
EVEN BRING
HIMSELF TO
CONSIDER
DEALING...

AMONG
ALL OF THE
14 TILES THAT
HE HAD IN HIS
HAND TO
CHOOSE
FROM.

ONLY
THESE TWO
TILES.



..WAS
RIGHT A-
ROUND THE
5-SOU
...

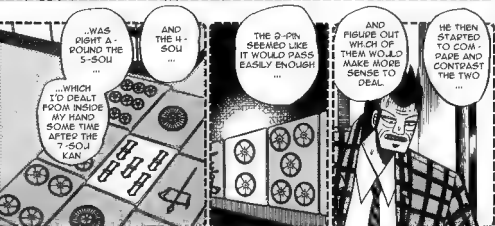
AND
THE 4-
SOU
...

THE 2-PIN
SEEMED LIKE
IT WOULD PASS
EASILY ENOUGH
...

AND
FIGURE OUT
WHICH OF
THEM WOULD
MAKE MORE
SENSE TO
DEAL.

HE THEN
STARTED TO COM-
PARE AND CONTRAST
THE TWO
...

...WHICH
I'D DEALT
FROM INSIDE
MY HAND
SOME TIME
AFTER THE
7-SOU
KAN



HAD MANY
TILES AROUND
IT IN MY DIS-
CARDS ..

IN
COMPA-
RISON,
THE 2-
PIN ..

I COULD
HAVE MADE
A KAN ..

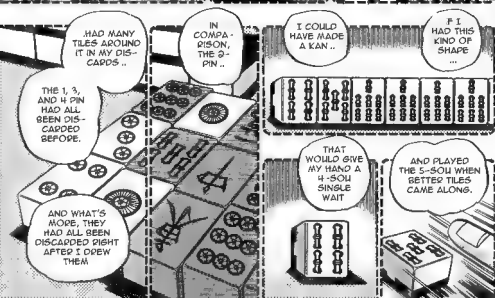
F I
HAD THIS
KIND OF
SHAPE
...

THE 1, 3,
AND 4 PIN
HAD ALL
BEEN DIS-
CARDED
BEFORE.

AND WHAT'S
MORE, THEY
HAD ALL BEEN
DISCARDED RIGHT
AFTER I DREW
THEM

THAT
WOULD GIVE
MY HAND A
4-SOU
SINGLE
WAIT

AND PLAYED
THE 5-SOU WHEN
BETTER TILES
CAME ALONG.



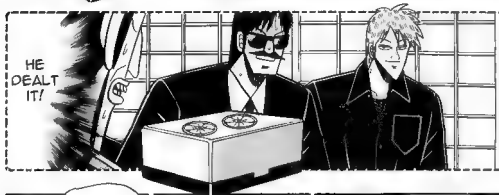


AND THINKING THINGS LIKE THAT,

IT HAD TO PASS!

IT WOULD PASS!

HE COULD NOT SEE ANY WAY THAT I WOULD STILL HAVE IT FOR MY SINGLE WAIT.



HE DEALT IT!



EVERY-THING THAT HE WAS THINKING AT THE TIME

THE REASONS I JUST MENTIONED FOR THE 2-PIN BEING SAFE

JUST BY USING THE 2-PIN AS MY WAIT



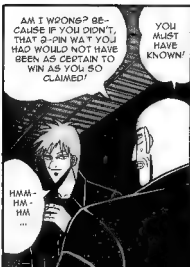
FOR THE PREDATOR WHO LAYS HIS TRAP

YOU SEE



HMM-HM-HM







I DEMAND
AN EX-
PLANATION
...



I'M SURE
YOU CAN
FIGURE IT
OUT ALL
BY YOUR-
SELF.



THEN
THERE'S
NOTHING
TO TELL.

IF YOU
UNDER-
STAND
HOW I
KNEW THAT
MUCH,
KUMICHO
...



IN
SHORT
...



I SENSED SOME-
THING FROM THE
2-PIN HE DISCARDED
FROM INSIDE HIS
HAND.

ON URASE'S
6TH TURN
...



I GOT THAT
2-PIN ON THE
7TH TURN OF
THE MATCH.



URASE WAS
STILL ON THE
OFFENSIVE

UP UNTIL HE
DEALT THE
2-PIN ON THE
6TH TURN
...



YEAH.

YOU
SENSED
SOME-
THING
...



JUST
BEFORE
THAT
...

HE STILL
HAD THAT
KIND OF
MINDSET.

BACK
THEN

THE VERY RISKY CHUN!

BUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT, HIS NEXT DRAW TURNED OUT TO BE

AND IN ORDER TO DO SO, HE CHOSE TO DEAL

HE AVOIDED ME.

HE
AVOID-
ED
ME.

HE DIDN'T
GIVE UP
ON WIN-
NING,
JUST
YET

BUT
EVEN
SO,

BUT
EVEN
SO,

HE KNEW
THAT HE
COULDN'T
DEAL THAT
CHUN.

A close-up of a telephone keypad. A speech bubble above the keypad contains the text: "AFTER TAKING ONE LOOK AT MY DOPA 4 CALL,".

I SAW HIM DO
JUST THAT
MANY TIMES
BEFORE IN
OUR BATTLE.

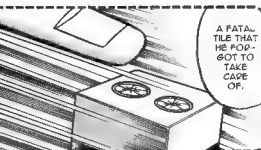
.. TO PICK
APART HIS
HAND,
STARTING
WITH HIS
PAIR..

A close-up of a character with spiky, light-colored hair and a serious expression. He is wearing a dark jacket. The background is a simple window frame.

HE HAD A TENDENCY

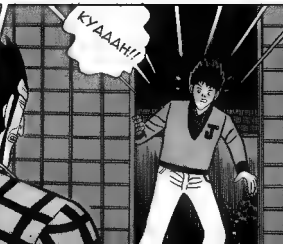
IN TIMES SUCH AS THIS,

IN
TIMES
SUCH AS
THIS,





kheh-
heh-
heh
..









CHAPTER 51 - PURITY

第51話 純度





IT CAN
NEVER
COME
TRUE.

THAT,
SOME DAY,
YOU WILL
BRING ME
DOWN TO
YOUR
LEVEL.

NO MATTER
HOW MANY
TIMES YOU
SHOUT IT
AT ME..

URABE
...









AKAGI!

AKAGI-SAN...?!



HMM-
HMM-
HMM
...

YOU DON'T
GAIN ANY-
THING, NO
MATTER HOW
IT TURNS
OUT!



IT'S
JUST
STUPID!

STOP
THIS
DEAL
AT
ONCE!



THAT'S
ALL THE
BETTER.



THAT CUTS
STRAIGHT TO
THE HEART OF
WHAT SAM-
BUNG REALLY
MEANS.

A LIFE-
AND-
DEATH
BATTLE
...

TO HAVE
A MEAN-
INGLESS
DEATH



WHOEVER
LOSES WILL
END UP WITH
THEIR LIFE
RUINED FOR-
EVER. A
FATE PERHAPS
EVEN WORSE
THAN DEATH.

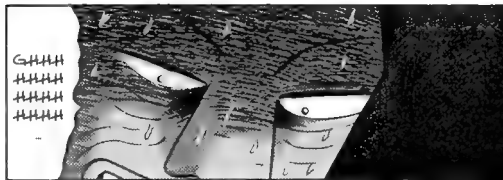
THAT'S
THE BEST
KIND OF
BATTLE,
DON'T YOU
AGREE?

IN THE
BATTLE
I'M
PRO-
POSING
...



WHO MAKES
BETS BASED
ON WHAT I
HAVE TO
GAIN I LEAVE
THAT TO
GUYS LIKE
URABE

I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
THE
TYPE
...





THAT
THREAT
WAS
TOTALLY
FAKE

BUT
ANY
WAY
YOU
LOOK
AT IT

THEN
AGAIN
...

....

LIKE HE
WAS PUT -
TING ON
A PLAY
OR SOME -
THING.

NO
DOUBT
ABOUT
IT.

.. THAT
HE WAS
PUTTING
ON A PERFOR -
MANCE.
HIMSELF

HE
DIDN'T
EXACTLY
KNOW
...

HE WAS
JUST TRYING
TO FOOL
HIMSELF.

THAT IS
TO SAY
...

HE HAD A
CHANCE TO
GET BACK AT
ME, BUT HE
LET IT ALL
GO.

ALL I
DID WAS
SHOW
THAT TO
HIM.

NOT ONE
WORD OF
WHAT HE
SAID WAS
REAL.

HE'S STILL AT
THE LEVEL
WHERE HE HAD
TO TAKE THE
PROS AND
CONS OF THAT
AGREEMENT
INTO AC -
COUNT.

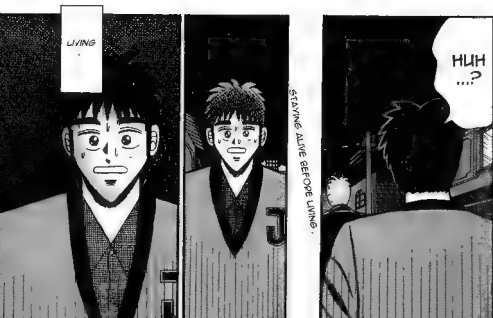
THAT'S
HOW LOW
OF A
LEVEL HE
FOUND
HIMSELF
AT .

HERE'S
WHAT
I'M
GETTING
AT..

HUH
...

EVEN
WHILE
HE WAS
ANGRY







I'M HERE,
AT THIS
MAHJONG
PARLOR.

BUT,
FOR
SOME
REA-
SON



SOMETHING
THAT'S
BEEN
PUNNING
THROUGH MY
MIND, EVER
SINCE..
THAT CALM,
RESERVED
SPEECH
OF HIS ..

YOU SEE,
BACK THEN,
AKAGI-
SAN SAID
SOMETHING ..

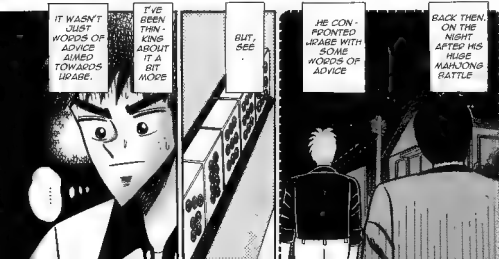
IT WASN'T
JUST
WORDS OF
ADVICE
AIMED
TOWARDS
URABE.

I'VE
BEEN
THIN-
KING
ABOUT
IT A
BIT
MORE

BUT,
SEE

HE CON-
FRONTED
URABE WITH
SOME
WORDS OF
ADVICE

BACK THEN,
ON THE
NIGHT
AFTER HIS
HUGE
MAHJONG
BATTLE





GETTING
WHATEVER
HAND COMES
YOUR WAY
AT THE
TIME..



JUST
STANDING
STILL, WITH-
OUT FIGHTING
OR RETREA-
TING...



THERE'S
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT
...

IT WAS
ALSO
FOR THE
REST OF
US WHO
WERE
THERE ..



JUST FO-
CUSING ON
SURVIVING
FOR THE
MOMENT
..



DELAYING
A RESPONSE
UNTIL LATER
...



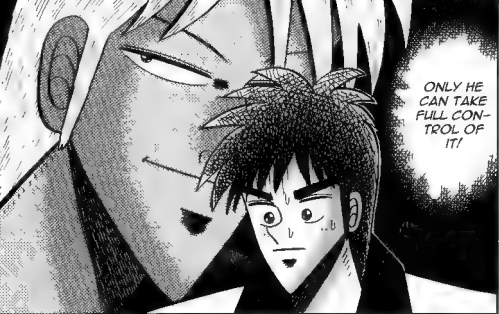
AKASHI-SAN
IS UNIQUE
HE'S
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT!

WHEN IT
COMES TO
THINGS
LIKE THAT

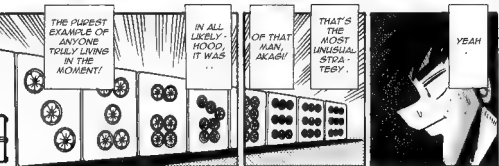


ONLY AKASHI-
SAN CAN
PEALLY LIVE
IN THE MO-
MENT





ONLY HE
CAN TAKE
FULL CON-
TROL OF
IT!



THE PUREST
EXAMPLE OF
ANYONE
TRULY LIVING
IN THE
MOMENT!

IN ALL
LIKELY-
HOOD,
IT WAS

OF THAT
MAN,
AKAGI!

THAT'S
THE
MOST
UNUSUAL
STRAT-
EGY.

YEAH



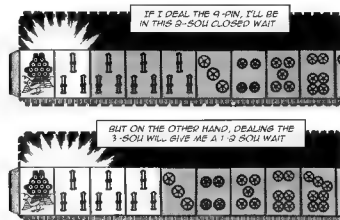
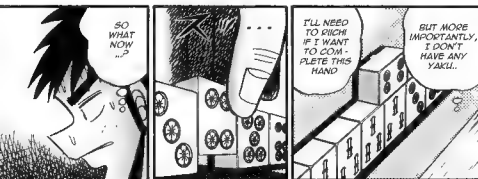
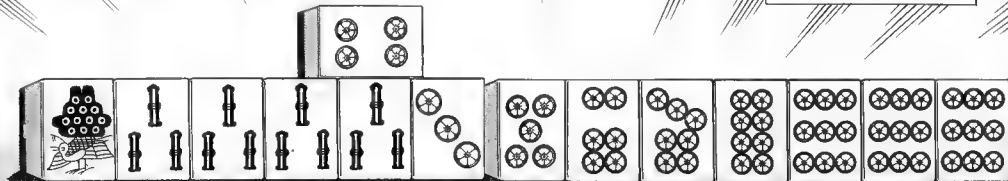
...IS SOME-
THING THAT
PEOPLE LIKE
ME CAN
NEVER DREAM
OF MIMICKING

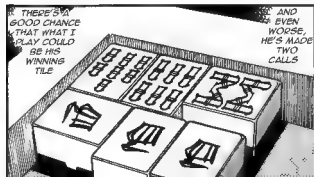
THAT
MOST
PURE
EXAM-
PLE OF
HIS

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH I
WANT TO,
I'LL NEVER
GET TO THAT
LEVEL.

ON OSAMU'S
11TH TURN...

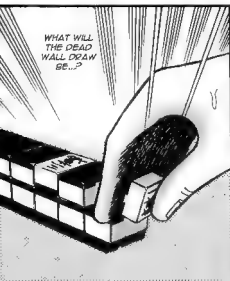
...HE REACHES
TENPAI!





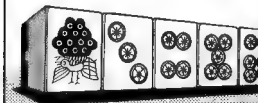


I GUESS
THIS
IS THE
BEST
OPTION





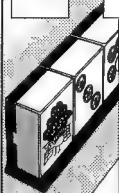
I'VE BLOCKED THEM OFF WITH MY 3-SOU KAN... AND MADE A RIICHI, WITH AN 1-SOU SINGLE WAIT!



IT WAS A KIND OF TRAP MEANT TO ENSNARE HIS OPPONENTS, BUT



... OSAMU'S ATTEMPT AT A SNEAK ATTACK.



THIS 1-SOU WAIT COULD BE SAID TO BE ...





HIS TRAP WAS
DISMANTLED
IN ONLY A
COUPLE TURNS!



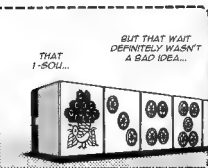
MANAGED
TO GET
A TSUMO
WIN

A MERE
TWO TURNS
LATER, THE
PLAYER
SEATED
ACROSS
FROM HIM



IN THE
END

IT WAS
NOT
MEANT
TO BE



THAT
I-SOW...

BUT THAT WAIT
DEFINITELY WASN'T
A BAD IDEA...



IT
DIDN'T
WORK
OUT, IN
THE END



NO MATTER
HOW GOOD OR
A WAITING
WAS...

EVEN
STILL,
THOUGH

I CAN'T SAY
I'M EXACTLY
PLEASED
WITH THE
RESULTS



HUHHHHHHHH...



THE OTHER
TWO 1-SOUS
WERE PROBAB-
LY ALREADY
USED UP IN
HIS HAND FOR
HIS PAIR OR
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT ..

SO,
BASED
ON
THAT
...

THERE WAS
AN 1-SOU IN
THE DISCARDS
OF THE PLAYER
TO MY RIGHT
..



SOME KIND OF
SHAPE WHERE
THOSE TWO
1-SOU TILES
WOULD NEVER
LEAVE HIS
HAND.



NIISAN
...



YOU REALLY
BLEW YOUR
COVER WITH THAT
KAN YOU MAOE
OF THE 7-SOU
...

GUESS
YOU LET
YOUR MIND
OFFA THE
GAME FOR
A MINUTE,
YEAH?



YOU'RE A
PRETTY BAD
PLAYER,
AINT'CHA?

I'VE BEEN
WATCHIN'
YOU...



DOES
YOUR
BOSS
PLAY LIKE
THAT,
TOO?



WHAT DO
YOU WANT
FROM ME?!



WHA
...



HN -
HN -
HN
...



SO,
NISAN
...



I
GOTTA
SAY
...



THAT'S
WHAT I'VE
BEEN
HEARIN'

TELL
ME IF
I'M
WRONG
ON THIS,
BUT
...





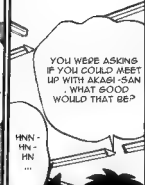
CHAPTER 52 - CALLING

第52話 生業



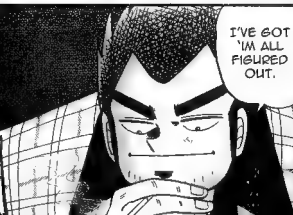


THERE'D BE A LOT OF GOOD BEIN' DONE, ANSAN.

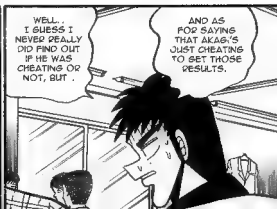


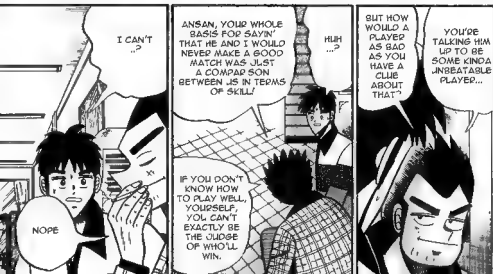
HNN -
HNN -
HNN ...

T/N: "ANSAN" IS A VERY FAMILIAR WAY OF SAYING "ANATA", OR "YOU" IN THE KANSAI DIALECT. IT HAS A SIMILAR EFFECT TO "BUDDY" OR "PAL".



I'D BET MY RIGHT ARM ON IT...







LEMME
SHOW YOU
SOMETHIN'.



I'LL USE THAT
LAST GAME
YOU PLAYED

...

TO
SHOW HOW
LITTE YOU
REALLY
KNOW.

THAT 3-SOU
KAN YOU MADE
IS A PERFECT
EXAMPLE OF
WHAT I JUST
SAID



LEMME
JUST
SHOW
YOU
NOW

YOU'LL FIND
OUT EVEN-
TUALY.



HNN -
HNN -
HNN

...
WHY.. ?



IF HE
MADE A
WIN, HE'D
TAKE THE
LEAD BACK
FROM YA
FOR SURE.

THAT 2ND-PLACE
GUY WAS THE
FIRST ONE AT
THE TABLE TO
GET HIS 28CH.
DOWN...

THEN,
ON YOUR
11TH TURN



BUT THE PROBLEM
WAS THAT THE GUY
IN SECOND WAS
CATCHIN' UP TO YOU...
HE ONLY HAD 800
POINTS TO GO FOR
A COMEBACK.



YOU WERE
IN THE
LEAD.

GOIN' BACK TO
THE ROUND I'M
TALKIN' 'BOUT,
ANSAN, IT
WAS THE
LAST ROUND
OF THE
MATCH

YOL WENT INTO TENPAI WITH THIS KINDA SHAPE.

GIVIN' YOU
A 1-SOU
SINGLE
WAIT

AND ONCE YOU MADE YOUR DEAD WALL DRAW, YOU GAVE IT A RIICHI, PLAYIN' THE TILE YOU JUST DREW...

SO THE
1-SOW COULD
LIKELY HAVE
SEEN HIS
WINNIN' TILE

...YOU
WERE RIGHT
ABOUT
THAT MUCH.

THE GUY TO
YOUR RIGHT HAD
BEEN CALLIN' UP
HON ITSU TILES
THE WHOLE TIME

YOU WERE PROBABLY THINKIN' OF SOME WAY IT COULD GET PLAYED FOR YOU .. BUT, ANSAN ...

THAT'S A REALLY NAIVE WAY TO THINK.

WHEN YOU
MADE THAT
3-60U
KAN.

„YOU
WERE RIGHT
ABOUT
THAT MUCH

THAT'S A
REALLY
NAIVE
WAY TO
THINK.

HE MADE A COME-BACK.

YOU LOST THE VERY SMALL LEAD YOU HAD 'FORE THEN.

THE GUY IN SECOND PLACE MANAGED TO GET THE TILE HE NEEDED TO COMPLETE HIS RICH WITH A TSUMO..

BUT YOUR SO-CALLED TRAP ENDED NOT TOO LONG AFTER THAT...

THERE WERE
DEFINITELY
THINGS YOU
COULDA DONE
TO HOLD ON
TO YOUR
LEAD JUST
THEN.

IT WAS
A MIS-
TAKE.

I
COULDN'T
HAVE
DONE
ANY
BETTER

IT JUST
WASN'T
MEANT
FOR ME TO
WIN RIGHT
THEN.

SO,
SO
WHAT,
I HAD
SOME
BAD
LUCK !

YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE MADE
A KAN WITH
'EM. YOL
SHOULDA
TOSSED
ONE OF
'EM!

STARTIN'
WITH THOSE
3-SOL YOU
HAD!

WRONG.

AND YOU
SHOULDA
RICH'D WITH
THIS SHAPE!



HIS HAND
WAS A HON
ITSU HAND,
JUST LIKE YOU
THOUGHT,
BUT...

THE
PLAYER
TO YOUR
RIGHT
...

IF YOU HAD,
YOU'D'VE HAD
A 1 AND 2 SOL
2-SIDED WAIT!



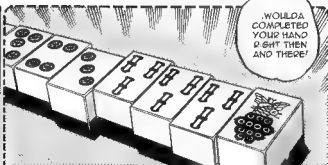
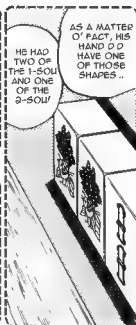
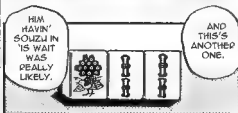
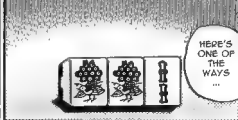
THERE WERE
STILL A FEW
WAYS HE
COULDA
NEEDED
THAT
3-SOL
...

TO PUT
IT A-
NOTHER
WAY
...

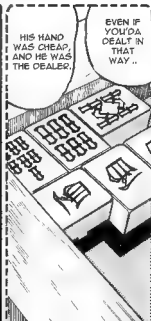
.. THAT
FOURTH ONE
WAS STILL
A REALLY
TRICKY TILE
TO PLAY.

EVEN THOUGH
YA HAD ALL'A
THE 3-SOL
TILES IN
YOUR HAND
...







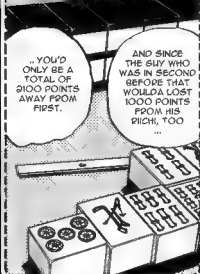




THAT
2100-POINT
DIFFERENCE
FROM
FIRST ..

S'NCE YOU
WERE ONLY
IN THE LEAD
BY 800
POINTS TO
BEGIN WITH
...

..WOULD-
N'T'VE BEEN
A HUGE
SETBACK



.. YOU'D
ONLY BE A
TOTAL OF
2100 POINTS
AWAY FROM
FIRST.

AND SINCE
THE GUY WHO
WAS IN SECOND
BEFORE THAT
WOULDA LOST
1000 POINTS
FROM HIS
RICH, TOO
...



YOU'D ONLY
HAVETA GIVE UP
THAT 3400
TEMPORARILY



HE'D
OBVIOUSLY
EXTEND THE
GAME FOR
ONE MORE.

SINCE YOU
WOULDA DEALT
INTO THE
DEALER'S HAND
FOR THE ROUND
...



YOU'D GET
A WHOLE
'NOTHER
HONBA TO
MAKE IT
BACK.

AND ON
TOP OF
THAT
...



THEN
YOU'D
HAVE
MADE
YOUR
COME-
BACK.

ALL YOU'D
NEED TO DO
WOULD BE
TO GET
YOUR HAND
TO 3000
POINTS OR
BETTER...



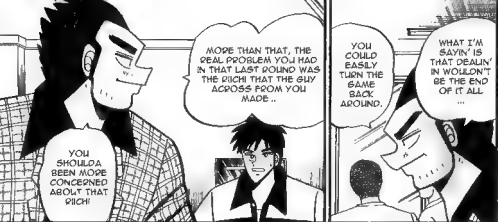
IN THAT
NEXT
HAND
...

AND WITH
THE 100-
POINT HONBA
STICK ON
TOP'A ALL
THAT...



...IT'D
STILL BE
SAVE-
ABLE, NO
DOUBT
ABOUT
IT.

YOU'D BE
GIVEN A
CHANCE TO
CLIMB BACK
UP IN THE
FINAL
ROUND
...







HNH -
HNH -
HNH -
...

IT'S HUMILIATING TO HAVE MY FLAWS EXPOSED LIKE THIS... BUT I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, HE HAS A POINT

HE MADE IT SEEM LIKE I WAS, LIKE, ASLEEP OR SOMETHING WHILE I WAS PLAYING

HE JUST RIPPED THAT MAHJONG GAME I PLAYED TO SHREDS...



LOOKS LIKE I'VE MADE MY POINT.



IT'S A BIT SURPRISING TO ME, BUT

I CAN TAKE A BLESS AT JUST HOW GOOD THIS AKAS GUY IS THAT YOU'RE TALKIN' SO PROUDLY 'BOUT

SO, BASED OFFA THAT

IT WAS OBVIOUS TO ME AS I WAS WATCHIN' YOU, BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THAT OEA CROSS YOUR MIND, ANSAN.



THAT'S NOT TRUE!

AND THAT I'O BEAT 'IM UP PRETTY BAD IF WE PLAYED A MATCH TOGETHER.

IT'S CLEAR THAT HE AIN'T THE MAHJONG MASTER THAT EVERYONE'S TALKING HIM UP TO BE.



LEMMIE
MEET TH'S
AKASHI
GUY.

SO
WHADDA
YA SAY,
HUH?



IF YOU'LL
INTRODUCE ME
TO THE GUY
NICE AND
QUIETLY, I'LL
MAKE T WELL
WORTH YOUR
WHILE,
ANSAN.

NOW,
NOW,
DON'T
SET ALL
WORKED
UP.

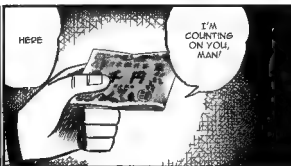


HNN-
HNN-
HNN

HOW CAN YOU
MAKE SUCH HUGE
ASSUMPTIONS
ABOUT HIM
WITHOUT EVEN
MEETING HIM?!



WHA-
!



HERE

I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU,
MAN!



IT'S
USE-
LESS!!

IT DOESN'T
MATTER
HOW MUCH
YOU GIVE
ME!!

I CAN'T
INTRO-
DUCE
YOU TO
HIM!



DON'T FUCK
WITH ME!

AIN'T A
BETTER WAY
ON THE PLANET
TO GET PEOPLE
TO DO WHAT
YOU WANT THAN
TO GREASE
THEIR PALMS,
AM I R SHT?



IT'S A
TIP, O'!
COURSE!

WHAT THE
HELL IS
THIS?!









HAAM?

SO, WHAT
BRINGS YOU
HERE, HUH?



OH, I'VE
JUST BEEN
AROUND ..
HERE AND
THERE

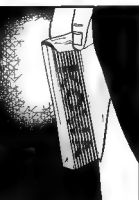
HA -
HMA
...

AH
...



I WAS
STARTING
TO GET
A LITTLE
WORRIED!

WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN, ALL
THIS TIME?



...BUT
I'VE GOT
A SPECIAL
DELIVERY
FOR YOU



NOT ONLY
THAT
...



I JUST CAUGHT
SOME HEARSAY
THAT YOU'VE
BEEN HANGING
AROUND HERE
A LOT, LATELY.

OH
...

AH
...



..YOU
GET A
LITTLE
OUT OF
THE PROFIT.

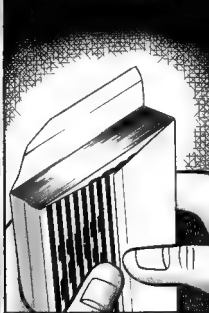


SINCE YOU
HELPED OUT
KAWADA -
KUMICHO,
TOO, THAT
NIGHT A
WEEK AGO
...



TAKE
IT.

HIHI
...?







UNTIL THE DAY YOU HAVE A BATTLE WITH ME...



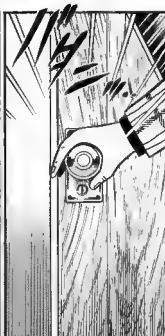




CHAPTER 53 - AT HAND

第53話 有り金















HNN -
HNN -
HNN.



QUITE A
LOT OF
MONEY,
YOU'VE
GOT HERE.



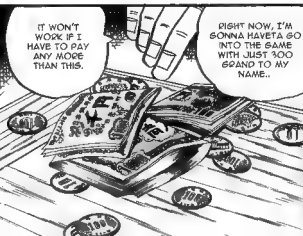
... WINNIN' TIME
AND TIME AGAIN
TO GET ALL THE
MONEY THAT I
POSSIBLY COULD,
BUT...

I BUILT
UP MONEY
...



... I'VE
BEEN
PUSHIN'
MYSELF TO
MY LIMIT

THESE LAST
FEW DAYS,
TO PREPARE
FOR MY MATCH
WITH YOU,
ANSAN.



IT WON'T
WORK IF I
HAVE TO PAY
ANY MORE
THAN THIS.

RIGHT NOW, I'M
SONNA HAVETA GO
INTO THE SAME
WITH JUST 300
GRAND TO MY
NAME..



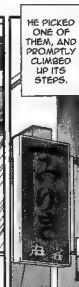
EVEN SO,
IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU'VE
GOT WAY
MORE THAN
I COULD'VE
GOTTEN.













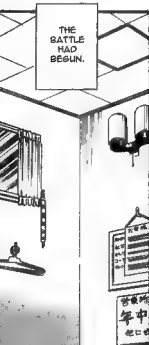
INSIDE



IT WAS
A RATHER
INACTIVE
DAY.



ONLY ONE
TABLE HAD
PEOPLE
PLAYING...



THE
BATTLE
HAD
BEGUN.

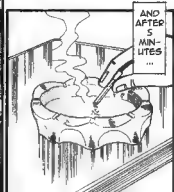


THIS
MADE
FOR 4
PEOPLE,
A COM-
PLETE
TABLE.

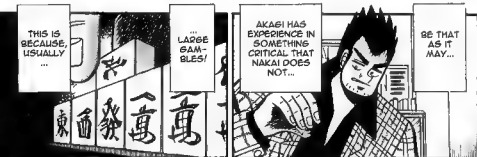
TWO
YOUNG MEN
ENTERED
THE PARLOR,
JOINING
AKASHI AND
NAKAI AT
THEIR TABLE.



AKASHI AND
THE OTHERS
WAITED AT
A TABLE FOR
A SHORT
WHILE...



AND
AFTER
5
MIN-
UTES
...





THIS NER-
VOUSNESS
IS ACTUALLY
VERY REA-
SONABLE!

AND IF
ONE THINKS
ABOUT THE
SITUATION
HE IS IN...



...MORE OR LESS
AMOUNTED TO
NAKAI'S WAY
OF COPING WITH
HIS NERVOUS-
NESS!

THE
CHANGE OF
LOCATION
AND
OTHER
SUCH
THINGS...



THIS
300,000
YEN THAT HE
GATHERED
BY HIMSELF
...

NAKAI IS
STICKING HIS
NECK OUT
FAR FOR THIS
MATCH...



THAT
MONEY
WOULD NOT
COME
BACK TO
HIM SO
EASILY

IF HE WERE
TO LOSE
NOW..



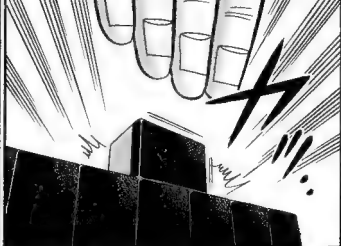
THROUGH
HIS PRIMARY
INCOME OF
PLAYING
MAHJONG.

IT TRULY
WAS HIS
LIFELONG
TREA-
SURE.



GRADUALLY
STORED UP,
BIT BY BIT
...

WAS, IN
FACT,
OVER
THE
COURSE
OF 1 OR
2 YEARS
...



BUT,
CONTRARY
TO HIS
HOPES FOR
THE GAME
...

THE ONE
WHO MOST
WANTED
TO WIN
WAS NAKAI
...

IN THIS
SHOW-
DOWN
...



AND
WHILE THAT
WAS GOING
ON...

...BUT EVEN
SO, HIS
HAND ENDED
UP WITH MANY
TILES THAT IT
COULD NOT USE.

HE HAD
SWITCHED
OUT 6
TILES OVER
THE COURSE
OF THE
GAME..

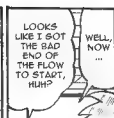
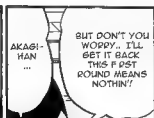
AND HIS
OVERALL
HAND WAS
VERY BAD.

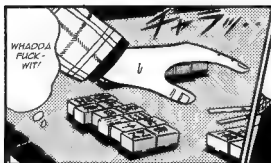
ALL OF
THE TILES
HE DREW
...



HE WAS
TRULY IN
A DES-
PERATE
SITUATION.



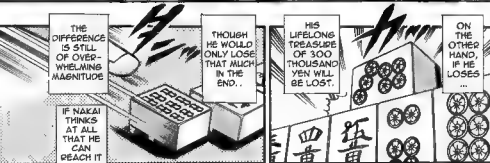






CHAPTER 54 - COORDINATION

第54話 連携





NAKAI HAD
REACHED
HIS WIT'S
END...

FROM THE
VERY START
OF THE
MATCH, AKAGI
WAS ON A
WINNING
STREAK..

THINGS
CONTINUED
TO DEFEY
NAKAI'S
EXPECTA-
TIONS.

2100
FROM
EVERY-
ONE.

TANYAO,
MENZEN
TSUMO, WITH
1 DORA.

EVEN NOW,
HIS POINTS
MERELY
CONTINUED
TO DE-
CREASE.

THAT TOOK
UP THE
VAST
MAJORITY
OF HIS
THOUGHTS
AT THE
TIME

THERE WAS
MOST
CERTAINLY
A WAY FOR
HIM TO
MAKE A
COMEBACK,
STILL.

IN THIS
STAGE OF
THE
BATTLE
...

SHIT
...

WHAT
THE FUCK
IS
GOIN'
ON...?!

OF
COURSE
...



HE WAS
ENTIRELY
FOCUSED ON
HOW TO BRING
THE MATCH
AROUND BACK
TO HIS FAVOR.

NO,
EVEN
CLOSED
TO 100%
...

90%
...



HE HAD
TO BE
READY
FOR ANY-
THING.

IN ORDER
TO WIN,
HE HAD TO
PREPARE
A STRA-
TEGY...



FOR
AKAGI HAD
ALREADY
WON.

IT WAS
TOO SOON
FOR THERE
TO EMERGE
A CHANCE
FOR HIM..



BUT
STILL
...



HUH
...?!

RON.

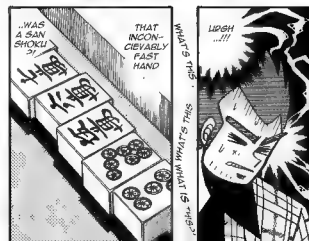
SHIT
...

UNEX-
PECTED-
LY
QUICKLY
...



IT'S
ONLY THE
FOURTH
TURN!!

THAT'S
NOT
POSSIBLE
...!!



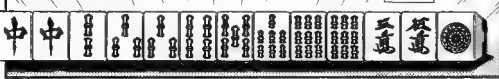
.. IS GET THAT DEALER SPOT AWAY FROM 'IM?

INSTEAD, WHAT I NEED TO DO FOR THE MOMENT ..

..IS
GET THAT
DEALER
SPOT
AWAY
FROM
"UM?"

INSTEAD,
WHAT I NEED
TO DO FOR
THE MOMENT
..

NAKA'S STARTING HAND:



IT WAS A HAND
WITH A LOT OF
PROMISE IN
THAT REGARD,
BUT...

A black and white manga-style illustration. A hand is shown from the side, with the index finger pointing towards a small, rectangular box. Several curved motion lines radiate from the box, suggesting it is moving or vibrating. The hand is positioned in the foreground, while the box is slightly behind it. The background is plain white.

IT COULD
VERY CON-
CEIVABLY
REACH
HON ITSU

IF THIS HAND WENT WELL
...



...AND
ACCEPTS
THIS
CHEAP
HAND.

HE
MAKES
THE
QUICK
CALL...

IN ORDER
TO STOP
THE DEALER,
AKABI, FROM
GETTING
ANOTHER
HONBA...

HIS HAND
BECOMES
FAR CHEA-
PER, BUT
...

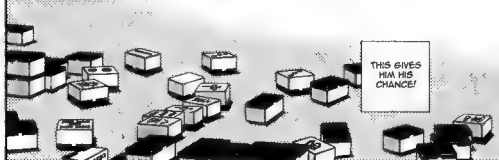
HE CALLS
ON THE
TILES OF
THOSE
AROUND
HIM

...AND
PUTS A
STOP TO
AKABI'S
DEALER-
SHIP.

HE
TAKES
THIS
1900
POINTS
...

SOMEHOW
OR ANO-
THER, NAKA!
SCRAPES
TOGETHER
A WIN.

RON!





DRAW-
ING
THAT
TILE

AND
SOON
AFTER



TSUMO!!



HOWEVER,
THIS GIVES
NAKAI HIS
THIRD
STRAIGHT
WIN!

DIDN'T
GET
ANY
OF
'EM...

KAAAAHHH!!

AND
NOW,
THE URA
DORA....!

RIICHI,
PINFU,
MENZEN
TSUMO!

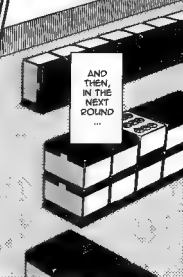
I GOT
ANOTHER
ONE!

HE
GATHERS
HIS
STRENGTH!



NOT AT ALL
INTIMIDATED BY
AKAGI'S
PREEMPTIVE
RIICHI...

RIICHI!



AND
THEN,
IN THE
NEXT
ROUND
...



...
FIGHTS
RIGHT
BACK!



NAKAI
...



THE SOUTH
PLAYER,
WHO HAD
ALREADY
TAKEN HIS
DRAW ..

AND
ONCE
AGAIN
...

...IS
ONCE
AGAIN
CALLED
BY THE
NORTH
PLAYER!

AND
THIS
TILE
...



HIS
HATSU
OVER-
FLOWS
FOR HIS
RIICHI ..

RIICHI!

THESE TWO
PONS
BETWEEN
THE NORTH
AND SOUTH
PLAYERS
...

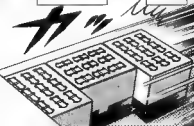
IN THE
END
...

THE 9-SOU
THAT THE
NORTH PLAYER
DEALS NEXT
IS CALLED
UPON BY THE
SOUTH
PLAYER!

WITHOUT
MISSING
A BEAT
...

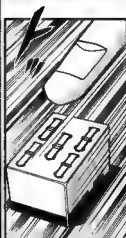
AND
AFTER
THAT
...

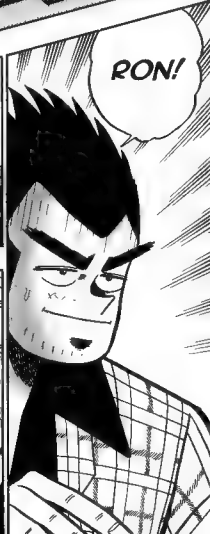
...IS
FORCED
TO PUT
IT BACK
IN THE
WALL...



...TO
THE TILE
THAT THE
SOUTH
PLAYER
HAD PUT
BACK.

...CHANGED
THE TILE THAT
AKASHI WOULD
DRAW ON HIS
NEXT TURN...









HE MADE
ME LEAVE
THE MONEY
BACK THERE,
TOO..!

I MEAN,
IT'S NOT
LIKE
WE'RE
GONNA
BE GONE,
FOREVER
...



HMM-
HM-
HMM
...

SER-
IOUSLY!

I WOULDN'T
JUST RUN
OFF WITH
THE MONEY
LIKE SOME
KIND OF
KOOLOGAN
..!!



YEAH
...

HE JUST HAD
TO FEEL AS
SECURE AS
HE COULD.
HE'S QUITE THE
SHREWD LITTLE
GUY.

WELL, THAT'S
JUST HOW
HE IS



MAN,
WHAT'S
UP WITH
THAT
GUY?

HMM-
HM-
HMM
...



HUH
..?

IT SEEMS LIKE
YOU'RE MIS-
INTERPRETING
WHAT'S GOING
ON, AGAIN,
OSAMU.



HE WAS
GETTING A
LOT OF
WINS, ALL
OF A
SUDDEN!

OH, I
MEAN IN THE
ACTUAL
MAHJONG
GAME!

HMM-
HM-
HMM
...



HMM
?

WELL,
ANY-
WAY
...

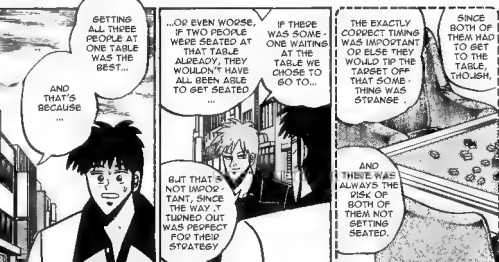
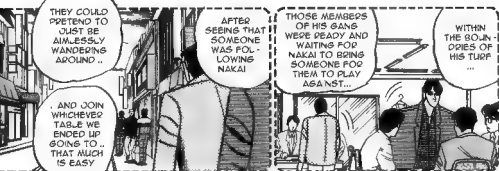


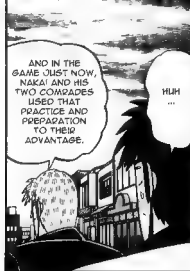
LAYING
IT ON
..?

HE WAS REALLY
LAYING IT ON,
WASN'T HE?

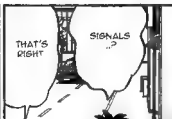
..THAT GUY.







HUH ...







BACK THEN,
HIS WINNING
HAND LOOKED
LIKE THIS...

HIS
DISCARDS
LOOKED
LIKE THIS.

AND
YET
...



SO, IF
WE TAKE
THAT INTO
ACCOUNT
...

HE DEALT
THE 3-SOL
TO PUT
HIMSELF
IN TENPAI

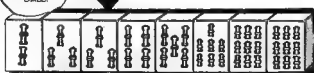
AFTER HE
CALLED THE
CHUN...



DOESN'T
SOMETHING
SEEM A
LITTLE BT
OFF TO
YOU?

WITH
THAT IN
MIND
...

HE HAD
THIS HAND
AFTER THAT
CALL.



...HE WOULD
HAVE THIS
1-4 SOL
EDGE WAIT!

THAT'S NOT
SOMETHING THAT
A PLAYER OF
NAKA'S CLASS
WOULD NORMALLY DO,

AND FROM
IT, HE CHOSE
TO DISCARD
THE 3-SOL.

IF HE'D
INSTEAD
CHOSEN
THE 7-SOL
...



HE SPECIFICALLY
CHOSE TO
TAKE THE LESS
LIKELY 6-SOU
CLOSED
WAIT



HE
DEFINITELY
D.D THAT
ON PUR-
POSE.

THAT IS
THE ONLY
WAY.

HE KNEW FOR A FACT
THAT HIS 6-SOU CLOSED
WAIT WOULD COME TO
FRUITION ON THE VERY
NEXT TURN. THAT
SOMEONE WOULD
DEAL INTO HIS HAND
WITH IT.

THEN IT
CAN ONLY
MEAN
ONE
THING.

IF HE
CHOSE
THAT
WAIT
FIRST
...

HE HAD BEEN
BLENDING IN WELL
ENOUGH UP TO
THERE, BUT HE WAS
BEYOND THE POINT
WHERE HE STILL
SAFELY COULD

BUT NAKAI
ONLY HAD 8600
POINTS LEFT
TO LOSE. HE
WAS GETTING
PRETTY
DESPERATE.

HE WAS
PLAYING IN
A MATCH WORTH
MORE MONEY
THAN HE COULD
PEALLY COMPREHEND
...

WELL, THOSE
GUYS HAD DONE A
PRETTY GOOD JOB
OF LAYING LOW UP
UNTIL THAT POINT
...

IF HE'D
WANTED TO
KEEP THEIR
COVER, HE
WOULD HAVE
CHOSEN THAT
1-4 WAIT

HUH
...

FOR
INSTANCE
...

THEIR
SIGNALS
AND COM-
BINATION
PLAYS WERE
OUT IN THE
OPEN

AND AFTER
HE MADE THAT
MOVE, THE
GLOVES WERE
OFF.

IT WOULD BE
ABSLOD TO STAY
WORRIED ABOUT
APPEARANCES AT
SUCH A CRITICAL
MOMENT



HUH ...?

ALL OF IT WAS A RESULT OF THEIR COMBINATION PLAY.



AS WELL AS THAT TIME I DEALT IN ...

THE TSUMO THAT HE MADE ...



HOW CAN THAT BE THE RESULT OF THEIR COMBINATION PLAY ...?

BUT A TSUMO ... AND GETTING YOU TO DEAL IN, TOO, AKAGI-SAN?

WELL, I... I CAN SEE HOW YOU COULD DO A COMBINATION PLAY BY DEALING WHATEVER THE TILE YOUR PARTNER WOULD NEED TO WIN IS AND STUFF LIKE THAT ...



YOU GOT IT.

THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH SIGNALS, TOO...?



HUH ...?!



ALL OF THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH COMBINATION PLAYS...



IT WOULD REQUIRE A BIT OF PRACTICE TO PULL OFF WELL ...

OH, BUT IT IS.

BUT IT'S VERY SIMPLE ...

近代麻雀コミックス

アカギ⑥

1996年2月27日初版発行

著 者 ● 福本伸行 ©NOBUYUKI FJKUMOTO

発行者 ● 高橋一平

発行所 ● 篠竹書房

東京都千代田区飯田橋 2-7-3

電話 03 (3264) 1576

振替 東京 7-179210

印刷所 ● 晩印刷株式会社

乱丁・落丁本はおとりかえいたします。

定価はカバーに表示してあります。

TAKE SHOBO Printed in Japan.

絶賛/レンタル中!!

神域の闘牌コミック、遂に奇跡のビデオ化!!

◆本格ビデオムービー麻雀ゲーム

闘牌伝アカギ

●3DO™システム対応版●プレイステーション版

定価各4,980円(税抜)

絶賛発売中!

第6回麻雀大戦最強戦最上位
飯田譲治プロデュース作品//
麻雀コミック界の大ヒット作品を次々と放つ
脚本・演出・原作
「天・地・人」(銀と金)
麻雀ドラマ史上空前の
麻雀戦シーンが炸裂する

闘 牌 伝

アサギ

柏原 崇/尾藤イサオ
松重 豊/大高洋夫/吹越 満
小木茂光/寺田 農

●TKVU-61100●カラー●35分●ステレオ4+2●VHS1000(収録)

闘麻雀界を震撼させた天才…

●エグゼクティブ・プロデューサー:
飯田譲治
●原作: 脚本・演出
「アサギ」竹書房 近代麻雀コミックス
●脚本: 山田 浩
●監督: 尾藤伊三
●麻雀指導: 植島 忠



一人の少年が雀荘に降り立つ。
何も知らないはずの少年に天から
与えられた才能が発動する。その
少年の名はアカギ。闘牌の歴史が
今、開かれようとしている。



歴史を開く

闘牌に降り立った天才

闘牌の

来たりて

天才が

アカギ

アカギ

福本伸行
単行本 第1～6巻

絶賛発売中!! 定価580円(税込)

■別冊近代麻雀の単行本

てっぺん

作 来賀友志
画 嶺岸信明

①～③巻 B5判/各580円(税込)

勝利のためだけに

胸を熱くする
闘牌ドラマ

大好評既刊ラインナップ

●近代麻雀コミックス●

- 笑きの竜/能條純一 全8巻 530円
- 北家の獅子/能條純一 全1巻 530円
- 風牌にふかれて/能條純一 全1巻 530円
- 風の獅子/能條純一 全1巻 530円
- はっほうやぶれ/かわぐちかいじ 全8巻 530円
- プロ(読者版)/かわぐちかいじ 上下巻 980円
- 日麻雀プロ物語/ぼんまりう 全3巻 530円
- 天和通りの快男児/榎本伸行 1～10巻 530円
- アカギ/榎本伸行 1～8巻 580円
- 熱いぜ辺ちゃん/榎本伸行 全2巻 580円
- 銀ヤンマ/榎本伸行 全1巻 580円
- あぶれもん/嶺岸信明+来賀友志 全5巻 530円
- 勝負師の条件/嶺岸信明+山根泰昭 全3巻 530円
- ぼおすき/嶺岸信明+東史郎 全2巻 580円
- ジャングル/嶺岸信明(+香月謙) 全4巻 580円・680円
- 幻に賭ける/嶺岸信明+土井泰昭 第1巻 580円
- てっぺん/嶺岸信明+来賀友志 1～3巻 580円
- スーパーツガン/片山まさゆき 全9巻 600円
- ノーマーク爆牌鬼/片山まさゆき 1～8巻 530円
- ザ・ライブ/神田たけ志 全4巻 530円
- ジョーイチ/神田たけ志+柳史一郎 全9巻 530円
- ウァナビーズ/本そういち+来賀友志 第1巻 580円
- 狐火/千葉潔和 全1巻 580円
- VRG/井浦秀夫 第1巻 580円
- ポッキングルージュ/てらおかみちお 全3巻 530円
- 勝手にジャンキョード/萩原玲二 全2巻 530円
- 赤い通り雨/石井隆 全1巻 530円
- めとろガール/入江紀子 全2巻 580円
- ナルミ/柳澤一明+山根泰昭 1～4巻 580円
- 阿羅漢/しもさか保+安藤満 全4巻 580円
- ◎牌の音ストーリーズ/みやわき心太郎 1～3巻 880円
- 煙たたる雀里/井上孝重 全3巻 530円
- 麻雀放浪記CLASSIC/井上孝重 1～3巻 580円
- 白HAKU/沢沢さつき 全4巻 580円
- レート/原恵一郎+南波雅 第1巻 580円
- 帝王少年/中村光信 1～2巻 580円
- ガキ雀/堀田あさお 全2巻 580円・580円
- 麻雀豊饒/甲良幹二+来賀友志 全3巻 580円・680円
- タコ/なかたひろお 第1巻 580円
- ナイトストーン/神江里見+来賀友志 全2巻 580円
- トーキョーゲーム/青山広美 全2巻 580円
- バンブーコミックス●
- まおじゃんぼうろうき/西原理恵子 全4巻 600円
- 定本何を切る!?/1～2巻 880円
- パラダイス・ロスト/日高トモキチ 第1巻 880円
- 雀荘へ行こう/有元美保 第1巻 600円

■好評発売中!!

VRG 井浦秀夫①

狐火 千葉潔和

ウァナビーズ 本そういち+来賀友志①

雀荘へ行こう 有元美保①

定価580円/600円(税込)